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Foreign Minister Shimon Peres gestures to PA negotiator Ahmed Qreia at yesterday's session of the Taba talks, as PA Chairman Yasser Arafat looks on.

Taba negotiations recess without pact

PM: It's OK if it takes another 2 weeks

FIVE nights and four days of negotiations are scheduled to end this morning without Israel and the Palestinians finalizing an agreement on expanding autonomy, although a deal on Hebron is apparently close to being reached.

DAVID MAKOVSKY and LAMIA LAHOUD in Taba

prisoners, and unspecified legal issues. On Hebron, negotiators said it was possible the two sides would draw up a common paper that delineated the principles reached on the future running of the city.

Talks are expected to resume after Rosh Hashana. It was still unclear last night whether the IDF would control areas linking the Jewish sections of the city.

Sources indicated that between Kiryat Arba, the Machpela Cave, and Jewish enclaves in the city there would be joint patrols, although this could not be confirmed.

According to Palestinian negotiators, among the principles agreed on was that the IDF would protect Jewish "places" and not "areas" - in Hebron, while the Palestinians would be responsible for internal security and public order in most of the city.

Zissman and Kahalani to leave Labor, Page 5

The decision to yield on this point was apparently made by Rabin.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who had been hopeful the accord would be completed this week, said he would not be too concerned if it took another week or two.

Apart from Hebron, unresolved differences include demarcation of the map of the self-rule areas, the release of Palestinian

Judea and Samaria, for the differences on Hebron.

"He is against the peace process and is trying to fix his own political future at the expense of two peoples," Rajoub said.

At the same time, Rajoub voiced regret that his comment calling Biran a "quartermaster" was reported seriously. Biran was not available for comment.

According to a Palestinian negotiator, Israel has agreed to 400 Palestinian policemen in Hebron, with an unspecified number to be equipped with handguns.

It is known that Israel has agreed to evacuate the IDF headquarters in Hebron and hand it over to the Palestinian Police before Palestinian general elections.

Still unresolved are who will control the main roads and the degree of movement to be permitted the Palestinian Police on roads used by both Palestinians and Israelis.

Israel has accepted the placement of Palestinian policemen at the Moslem entrance of the cave, while overall security would remain the responsibility of the IDF.

Hebron Mayor Mustafa Natshe wants an agreement stipulating that settlers will be removed at the end of the interim (Continued on Page 22)

Jerusalem man kills wife, wounds son, then attempts suicide

YITZHAK Tzuriano shot and killed his estranged wife, Natasha, wounded his son Daniel, 4, then tried to kill himself yesterday evening.

The Tzurianos separated some

time ago, and Natasha lived with a boyfriend in the Kiryat Hayovel section of the capital. Yesterday, Tzuriano, who had been forbidden to enter his wife's apartment, took his son on an outing. When they returned in the late afternoon, he begged his son to tell his wife to pick up the boy. When she opened the car door, Tzuriano shot her in the head at point-blank range.

A neighbor, Nissan Peretz, said he came out when he heard the shots, and found Natasha lying on the ground in a pool of blood, and Yitzhak lying next to the car. (Him)

Riots erupt in Nablus following two deaths

JON IMMANUEL

RIOTS erupted in Nablus for the second day yesterday, following the shooting deaths of a teenager and a young man Wednesday in clashes with the IDF.

A curfew was imposed in the center of town and most of Nablus was declared a closed military area. Youths threw stones at army patrols during an IDF undercover operation and masked youths called for a commercial strike, which was obeyed. "We will fight, we will fight," they shouted. One man was wounded in yesterday's clashes.

More than 1,000 people attended the funeral of Nasser Ha'oun, 23, killed in the casbah

Wednesday night during a protest against the shooting death earlier in the day of Omar Razawi, 17. Seven more people were wounded. The clashes started with stone-throwing at a jeep.

(Continued on Page 22)

Interest rates to go up 0.5%

THE Bank of Israel announced yesterday it will increase interest rates by 0.5 percentage points to 13.7% next month in an attempt to cool rising inflation expectations. The hike reverses the trend of rate cuts that began seven months ago and will lead to a rise in overdraft rates, as well as higher

interest payments on savings. Following the central bank's announcement yesterday, the five largest commercial banks said they would raise their prime lending rates by half a percentage point, to 15.2% per annum from 14.7%. Full story, Page 17

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(See page 3, Weekend Magazine)

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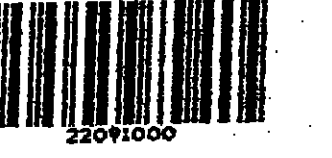
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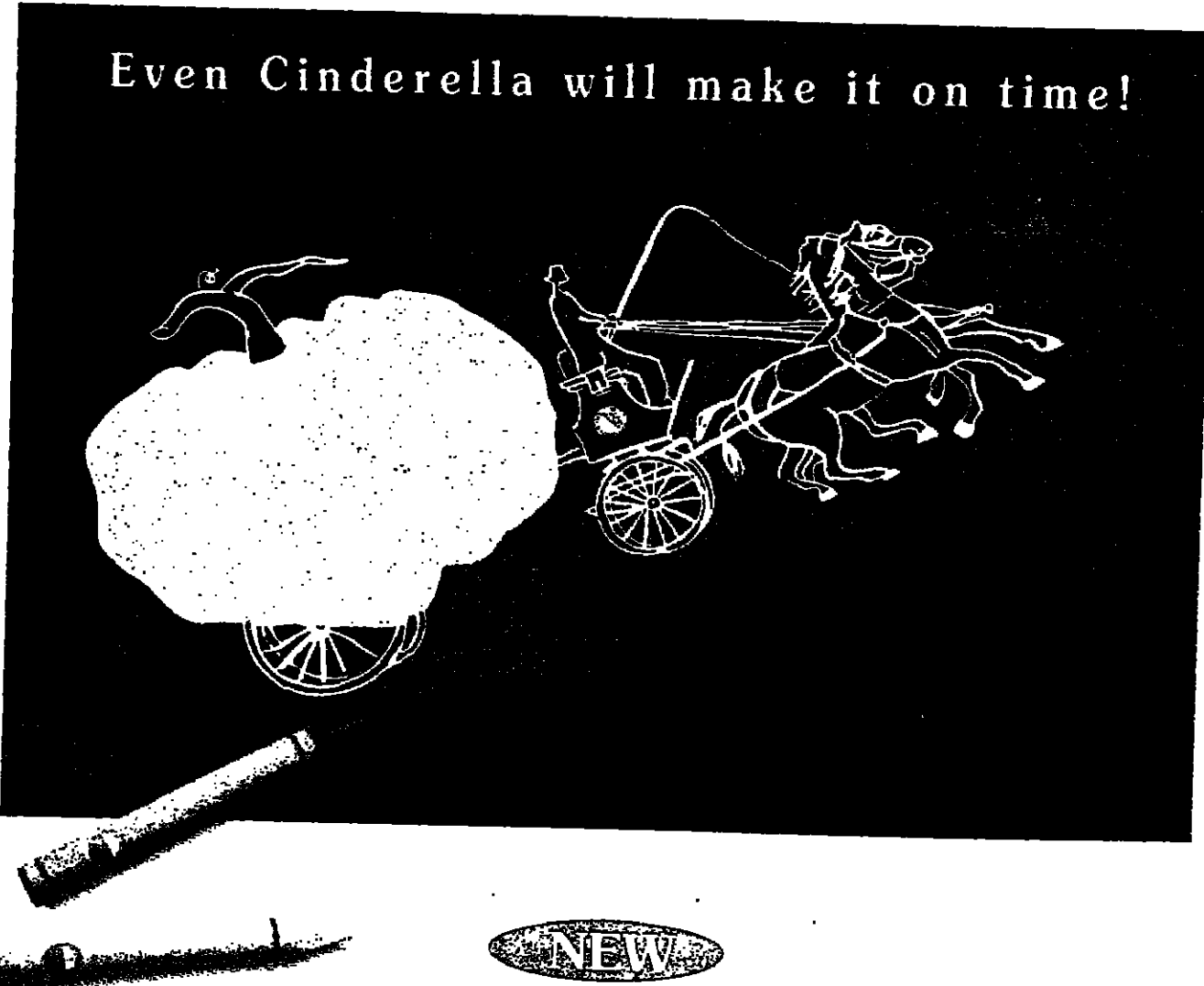
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MIZRAHI BANK

Soldier overcomes assailant near Yokne'am

AN IDF soldier overcame and wounded a Palestinian assailant near Yokne'am last night. Police and Border Police units were seeking an accomplice who sped away by car and fled after crashing into a wall.

The soldier, Ofir Vaknin, 20, of Migdal Ha'emek, who was armed with a Gilson assault rifle, was hitchhiking at the Tishbi junction, about one kilometer north of Yokne'am. At approximately 7 p.m. a car stopped and a man armed with a pistol and a knife emerged from the passen-

ALON PINKAS
and Itim

ger's side of the vehicle. In his initial debriefing, the soldier said that he immediately realized the man had hostile intentions, and tried to subdue him.

In the struggle that ensued, the soldier suffered a light stab wound in the head, but managed to take away the assailant's pistol and shoot and wound him in the leg. The assailant was taken to Haifa's Rambam Hospital,

where he underwent surgery. The car then sped away and crashed into a wall near Ramat Yishai. The car overturned but the driver escaped.

Identification documents were found in the car and police said last night that the man and his accomplice are from Jenin, and their identities are known. Several roads in the Yokne'am area were closed last night by police.

The army is treating it as a foiled attempt to kidnap the soldier.

Hijacker of Iranian plane remanded by Eilat court

REZAH Jabari, the hijacker of the Iranian Kish Air jet, was remanded yesterday in Eilat Magistrate's Court for 15 days on charges of hijacking a plane, kidnapping, illegal entry into Israel and illegal possession of a firearm.

Rizah is expected to be handed over to the International Red Cross by early October. His request for political asylum in Israel will be denied.

Jabari told the court he was "mentally suffering a lot in Iran" and repeated his request for political asylum. Judge Shlomo Bar-Eli ruled he could be held for up to 15 days while authorities investigate the charges.

During the hearing, Jabari told the judge he "never had any in-

ALON PINKAS
and news agencies

tention of harming anyone."

Contradicting early reports that he had work-related problems with his employers at Kish Air, Jabari said he wanted to inform "world opinion and Iranian opinion of my actions," but policemen prevented him from making a statement to the press outside the courtroom.

In Iran, meanwhile, the pilot of the hijacked plane said Jabari asked to fly to Israel immediately after he hijacked the plane.

"He immediately asked to go to Israel, which was strange to me, because he did not demand we land anywhere else," Capt. Kiumarz Mofkhami, told state-

run Teheran Radio late Wednesday night, when the plane returned to the Iranian capital. Passengers told a news conference at Teheran airport that they were treated fairly well, although sleeping accommodations were bad.

Iran's vice president, Hassan Habibi, said yesterday that "Iran would have dealt seriously with the matter" if Israel had refused to free the plane or had delayed its return.

Mofkhami told the Islamic Republic News Agency, monitoring in Cyprus, that Israeli forces had "savagely" and repeatedly interrogated all the passengers, asking them if they had relatives who were senior military personnel.



IDF soldiers throw cinder blocks off a rooftop in Nablus yesterday, after they were hurled at the soldiers by rioters. Widespread clashes between local residents and the security forces were reported in the city. (Khaled Zighari)

Family of alleged Halhoul murderers invites public to kill the three suspects

JON IMMANUEL

THE family of three suspects in the murder of a Halhoul man yesterday published an announcement inviting the public to kill the three.

The trio - Sami Shubak, and his cousins, brothers Walid and Nidal Shubak - were brought to Hebron Military Court for an extension of their remand pending trial for the murder of Salman Azamareh, a local Fatah activist shot dead two weeks ago

by four men impersonating IDF soldiers.

The fourth man is missing and may have been abducted to Jericho by agents of Preventive Security Chief Col. Jibril Rajoub. ITV said.

The town of Halhoul, near Hebron, has accepted that the three local Palestinian suspects - and not Israeli settlers as first suspect-

ed - are the likely killers, but many are sure they were collaborators working with Israel. Yesterday the Shubak family published a notice in the *Al-Quds* daily saying "Their blood may be freely spilled."

Three days ago members of the Azamareh family set fire to four homes belonging to the Shubak family, and other members of the

extended Shubak family prevented the fire brigade from putting the fire out.

In court, Sami Shubak denied that he fired the shots from a Karl-Gustav sub-machine gun that killed Azamareh and said the real killer was Munir Amer from Dura, who owned the gun.

Amer said he rented the gun out for NIS 4,500 and the police know he is not the killer.

MDA, Red Crescent officials meet in J'lem

A Magen David Adom delegation met yesterday with heads of the Palestinian Red Crescent Society headed by Dr. Fathi Arafat at Jerusalem's King David Hotel.

Prof. David Barzilai, the pres-

ident of MDA, discussed with Arafat - the PLO chairman's younger brother - the possibility of cooperation between the two organizations in emergency medicine and a blood bank.

Judy Siegel

Drunk driver caught after chase

A DRIVER suspected of hitting two pedestrians Tuesday while driving without a license and under the influence of alcohol was caught after a chase by Ashkelon police. Lyonis Asarkin, 32, who has no license, was driving while drunk when police gave chase. During the chase, Asarkin hit two pedestrians who fortunately were not seriously hurt. Asarkin told a judge who extended his remand for 10 days that he fought with his wife, drank, and then decided to "go for a drive to calm down."

(Jim)

Air force strikes Hizbullah base north of security zone

ALON PINKAS

AIR force jets struck a Hizbullah base north of the security zone yesterday afternoon, military sources said.

According to Lebanese sources, four jets attacked targets on the hills of Maidoun and Mashghara on the southern edge of Bekaa Valley, north of the security zone.

The jets carried out two sorties beginning at 12:30 p.m., and fired four air-to-surface missiles, the sources said.

Black smoke billowed high above the area several hours after the attack, the third in the last month against targets in the Bekaa.

The Maidoun area is 20 kilometers north of Marjayoun in the security zone.

Also yesterday, Chief of the General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak said Iran prepares the bombs used by Hizbullah

against IDF soldiers in south Lebanon.

"We know that some of the technical aid comes from Iran," Shahak said, in an interview with Army Radio.

"I wouldn't be surprised if not only the electronic parts, but also the bombs themselves were imported by Hizbullah," he said.

Winning cards & numbers

In last night's Payis Hazak drawing, the holder of ticket number 749648 won NIS 1,000,000.

The holder of ticket number 859292 won a car.

Tickets numbered 431352, 823161, 837953, 476609, 478563, 213722, 058111 and 378648 won NIS 5,000. Those tickets ending in 38834, 96753, 63696, 01577, 30057, 97580, 24170, 96520, 73003, 74969, 04290, 43500, 89227, 83184, 23893 83924, 62624, 20372 and 58744 won NIS 1,000. Tickets ending in 605, 946, 439, 443, and 458 won NIS 100. Tickets ending in 71, 42, 18, 82 and 70 won NIS 24. Tickets ending in 1 and 7 won NIS 8.

In yesterday's daily Chance drawing, the winning cards were the eight of spades, the eight of hearts, the seven of diamonds and the nine of clubs.

CORRECTION

In tomorrow's television listings for Channel 1, the first episode of *Buccaneers* will not be broadcast as listed, but will be postponed until next week. Instead, *7755 Has Passed*, a special program for Rosh Hashana, will be broadcast.

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Fathers of killed soldier, abductor in attempt at conciliation

THE fathers of an Israeli soldier and his Palestinian abductor, who were both killed in a failed rescue mission by IDF commandos, met this week in an effort to promote conciliation between Israelis and Palestinians.

Yehuda Wachsman and Palestinian Yassin Bader said they would try to bring their peoples closer together by establishing "a peace center."

Wachsman, an observant Jew, and Bader, a Moslem who has made the pilgrimage to Mecca twice, were brought together Tuesday by a Jerusalem weekly.

"I realized that this elderly man in front of me wished to live out his life in peace," said Wachsman, father of 19-year-old Sgt. Nachshon Wachsman, who was kidnapped by Hamas terrorists in October 1994.

Wachsman, a dual Israeli-American citizen, was killed by his captors when commandos raided their hideout. Three of the kidnapers, including 22-year-old Abdel-Karim Bader, were killed in the gunfight. One was captured.

Wachsman said Bader wrote him a letter condemning his son's actions.

"He too, together with me, reached the conclusion that we have to make a better world," Wachsman told Israel Radio. "We have to teach our children and theirs that we are human beings." (AP)

Amman kosher restaurant falls short

ABRAHAM RABINOVICH

AS a preview of his vision of a New Middle East, Pinhas Sela's strictly kosher restaurant in Amman has admittedly fallen short of expectations, but the Israeli businessman is not discouraged.

"We have lots of projects in the works in Jordan with people of stature," he said yesterday. "What happened with the restaurant is no example at all of what we expect to happen."

What happened is that the flocks of kosher-eating Israelis anticipated in the wake of the Israel-Jordan peace treaty failed to show up. The Israeli investors, of whom Sela is one, are trying to work out terms of separation from their Jordanian partner, Khalid Hindi.

"People get married," said Sela philosophically. "Sometimes they get divorced."

The restaurant opened on June 1 amid great international media attention. However, the restaurant manager, Ali Azi, told newsmen in Amman last week that Sela had estimated that 400 Jewish tourists would eat there every day. In fact, only 120 have shown up during the entire three months, Azi said. Hindi said he planned to turn the restaurant into a nightclub with dancers and bar girls catering to visiting Saudis.

Sela insists that the idea remains a good one. "No business can take off in only three months. I've spoken to travel agents dealing with Orthodox tourists. They say the flow really begins in October."

What the project needed was not only patience, said Sela, but a Jordanian partner better financed than Hindi. "This was supposed to be a 50-50 deal but it didn't work out that way. We were investing \$7,000 a month just in paying the salaries of the rabbi and the ritual slaughterer and for their travel and hotel expenses when they went to Amman. We expected him to invest in the premises."

Descriptions of the restaurant have ranged from "modest" to "seedy."

Sela, who speaks Arabic, said he would go to Amman after the holidays to meet with Hindi in order to find an amicable way of winding up their relationship. "I want it to be done in a good spirit," he said.

He said he had been interested in a kosher restaurant not only as an investment in itself, albeit a minor one, but to have a place where Israeli businessmen who keep kosher could dine with Jordanian counterparts. Such meetings are part of the lively commercial relations that Sela envisions between the two countries.

He is now looking into the possibility of establishing a kosher restaurant in an Amman hotel, he said.



Education Minister Amnon Rubinstein meets a group of young aspiring journalists yesterday, at the opening of a creative writing competition. (Hanoach Grizinsky/Israel Sun)

Greek priest confesses to nun's murder

HAIM SHAPIRO

A GREEK Orthodox clergyman's apparent quest for power and money ended in tragedy late Wednesday night with the murder of a young Romanian nun.

On Wednesday evening, residents of the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate in the Old City of Jerusalem saw smoke coming out of the apartment of Greek Orthodox Patriarch Diodoros I. When firemen arrived, they found the apartment in shambles; they also found the body of Gabriella Zarka, 26, whom they assumed had been a victim of the fire.

Within a short time, Religious Affairs Minister Shimon Shetret sent the patriarch a sympathy message and assured the members of the church that the authorities would do their utmost to find the culprits and increase security in and around the Christian holy places.

However, the investigation took a new turn after an examination of the body indicated that Zarka had been bludgeoned to death. Another nun told the police she had heard a man's voice

in the apartment. Jerusalem police spokesman Shmuel Ben-Ruby said yesterday that the police narrowed the suspects down to one: Archimandrite Sinasios Papagorio, 32, from Greece. It took several hours of questioning before the priest admitted to committing the murder.

Metropolitan Timothy, secretary of the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate, described the murder as "horrifying and unprecedented." "No one could expect that a priest committed to the service of God and the people to commit such a crime," he said.

Timothy said the crime was even more appalling because, according to police, the perpetrator had planned the attack. Prior to last night, he added, the suspect had behaved like a pious person.

He said that according to church law, the suspect had by his action stripped himself of any privilege of clergy. He added that the church synod would undoubtedly soon meet to defrock and

excommunicate him.

Ben-Ruby added that Papagorio, who lives in Beit Sabur, had been angry with the patriarch. "It was a matter of status and money," Ben-Ruby said.

He said Papagorio had apparently told Zarka of his intention to wreck the patriarch's dwelling, and that he killed her after she threatened to report his actions. There was definitely no other link between the two, Ben-Ruby said.

Yesterday morning, priests in the Patriarchate were in a state of shock. Several of them sat silently at the entrance to the gutted patriarch's apartment.

Uri Mor, director of the Religious Affairs Ministry's department for Christian communities, said that the speed with which the police solved the murder indicates the importance the government places on protection of the Christian churches. He added, however, that additional steps would have to be taken both by the authorities and by the churches themselves to improve their security.



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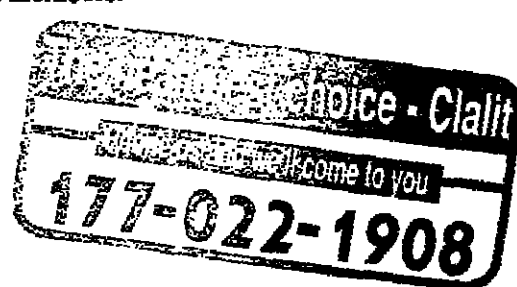
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Study: Israelis begin smoking at age 12

ISRAELI children most commonly begin smoking at age 12, a team of Jerusalem researchers who surveyed two schools in the capital have found.

Dr. Eitan Keren, a pediatric pulmonologist at Shaare Zedek Hospital, led a team that distributed in classrooms anonymous questionnaires on personal and family smoking habits among 847 pupils in grades six to 11. Of those queried, 35% admitted they had smoked at least once and 14% were currently smoking. The first cigarette was typically supplied by a "friend" but 24% took it from their parents without permission and 12% were actually given cigarettes by their parents.

The researchers found that explaining to youngsters the many health dangers of smoking is not very effective, as both smokers

JUDY SIEGEL

and non-smokers were well informed about them. Keren said the Camel cigarettes advertising campaign was most effective among 12- and 13-year-olds, as it used a cartoon character, Joe Camel.

Having a sibling or friend who smoked made youngsters more likely to smoke themselves. Many teenagers smoke at parties or at home, and less so during school recess; but 60% smoke elsewhere (in the street or friends' homes). Most kids say they smoked to try something new or because they saw others smoke. Thirty-five percent said they lit up out of rebellion, because it was "forbidden," and regarded fellow smokers as "daring, mature or smart." However, non-smoking teenagers had nega-

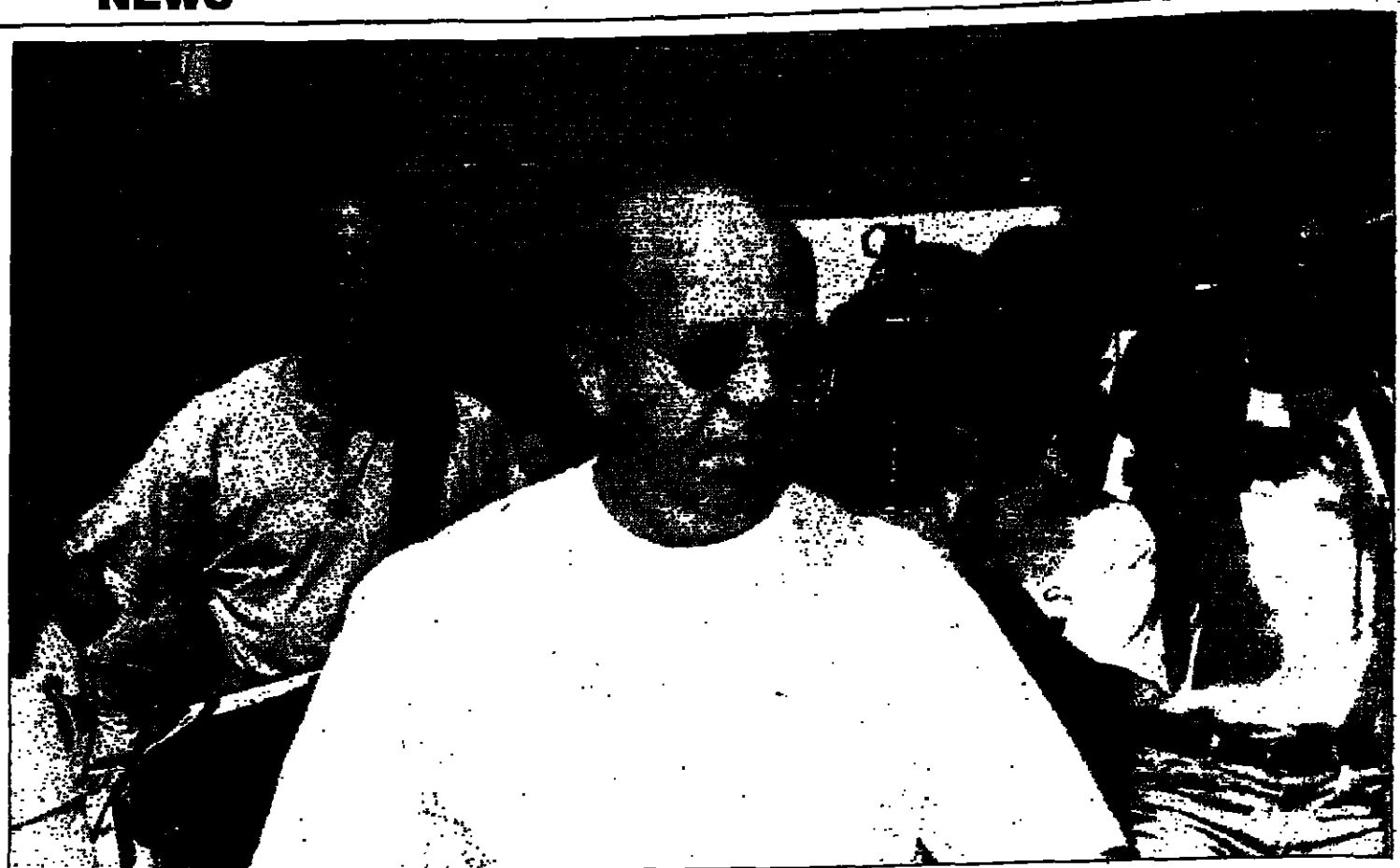
tive views of smokers.

The Shaare Zedek researchers called for smoking-prevention programs to begin before 7th grade, preferably from the beginning of elementary school. Educational campaigns should link smoking with negative images, and parents should be made aware of the risks of presenting children with a cigarette, even as a lark.

Meanwhile, the Public Lobby for the Prevention of Smoking yesterday congratulated the Finance Ministry on raising the cost of cigarettes by 16%.

They noted that in addition to increasing tax money, higher taxes on tobacco could cut the number of smokers by an additional 10 percent and decrease the number of deaths by 500 - the number of people who die in road accidents each year.

Zvi Gur, who is serving a life sentence for the murder 15 years ago of a young boy, Oron Yarden, leaves Ayalon Prison yesterday for a 24-hour furlough, his first since being jailed.



Does the Health Ministry care about what we eat?

HEALTH Minister Ephraim Sneh personally contributed to the steady erosion of public confidence in his ministry's ability to protect their health by making incorrect and misleading statements on Wednesday.

Sneh, a physician, persistently declared at a press conference and in an official press release that the sulfa drugs ministry staffers had discovered in some samples of poultry were "antibiotics."

Perhaps he had skipped a few pharmacology classes in medical school. Textbooks clearly differentiate between the two. The sulfa drugs used to kill bacteria and prevent infections in chicken and turkey are chemical agents that date back to the 1930s, when they were discovered by the German-Jewish scientist Dr. Paul Ehrlich. The earliest sulfas were derived from a dark-red industrial dye called prontosil, which in the body turns into sulphamamide, which kills bacteria.

Improved sulfa drugs, called sulfonamides, have been used for decades and are injected into the necks and breasts of chickens and turkeys. The high concentrations suddenly discovered by the ministry were due to their premature slaughter, before the chemicals were eliminated from their bodies.

Antibiotics, as their name implies, are derived from living material, such as molds and yeasts. They were developed by Prof. Ernest B. Chain, also a German Jew and a founder of the Hebrew University, and Prof. Alexander Fleming, who received most of the credit. Sulfa drugs are much cheaper than antibiotics and their overuse is less likely to cause bacteria to develop resistance.

When Sneh used the term "antibiotics" to describe sulfa drugs, he was not just being inaccurate. Since overly high concentrations of sulfa drugs can cause serious reactions in people allergic to them, and to those (espe-

COMMENT

JUDY SIEGEL

cially Yemenites) with a genetic defect that makes their liver unable to handle them, such poultry should be avoided by these people.

But people can be allergic to sulfa without suffering any ill effects from antibiotics, and vice versa; those who react badly to penicillin are rarely allergic to sulfa drugs.

This reporter told ministry spokeswoman Yifat Ben-Hai of the error and provided the phone number of a Dr. Zvi Fenton, until 1987 the ministry pharmacologist in charge of drug registration. She did not call him; the misinformation was not corrected; and the media - except *The Jerusalem Post* - stressed "antibiotics" were to blame. The spokeswoman said

Sneh insists sulfa drugs are "antibiotics."

People who depend on Sneh's careless inaccuracy and misinformation could needlessly conclude that they must avoid eating any poultry. Fenton said that the ministry was "giving information in simplistic laymen's terms, not adequate for an educated public."

But what is more disturbing is the trend - increasingly apparent in the past few weeks - that the ministry is a follower and not a leader when it comes to protecting public health.

It was a *Ma'ariv* investigative reporter who discovered that Tuva had been adding an illegal silicone compound to its long-life milk for 18 months, and ministry inspectors hadn't noticed. The ministry failed to deter Tuva from storing 74,000 unstamped eggs at high temperatures and

only discovered them in a routine check. How many more have they missed?

The ministry hurriedly issued a frightening, confusing advisory urging people not to boil water in electric kettles after it went through a home filtering device. It did so, without explaining how this happens or saying which filters were risky, the same day that the Histadrut's Consumer Protection Agency revealed the problem. The agency claimed it had informed the ministry about it four months ago, but that nothing had been done.

The uproar over the milk scandal, which has kept a Knesset committee and the newspapers busy, shows that people are concerned with what they eat. With only 52 food inspectors throughout the country, is the Health Ministry as concerned?

NEWS IN BRIEF

Karate instructor beats up burglar

A burglar chose the wrong victim Wednesday, breaking into the apartment of a woman karate instructor from Ashdod, who beat him up after she caught him trying to steal her jewelry.

Ilan Tsabari, 22, climbed into a family's second-story window while family members were sitting shiva for their father on the first floor. Tsabari grabbed some jewelry and watches, but one of the man's daughters, a black belt in karate, went upstairs and caught him red-handed. She overcame him in seconds. Tsabari was remanded for 12 days.

Wechsler concludes Deri testimony

Former Jerusalem treasurer Uzi Wechsler yesterday concluded his testimony in the ongoing trial in Jerusalem District Court of former interior minister Aryeh Deri on corruption charges. Wechsler said he did not recall Deri saying that haredi institutions should get special assistance because of past discrimination against them.

Suit filed against Brita

A NIS 700 million class-action suit against the German company Brita, which produces water filters, was filed in Tel Aviv District Court yesterday.

The suit, which claims to represent 350,000 people who bought the filters, was filed following the discovery by the Standards Institute that filtered water that is boiled in electric kettles results in harmful concentrations of nickel in the water.

The suit seeks to compensate purchasers for the cost of the filter and not for any health complications.

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Zissman, Kahalani will leave Labor for Third Way

Zvilli: They must resign from Knesset and party

SARAH HONIG

MK Emanuel Zissman announced yesterday that he and MK Avigdor Kahalani will leave the Labor Party when the Third Way declares itself a party, but added that "even if that does not happen, we will in any case vote against the Oslo-2 pact."

Zissman spoke in reaction to a gathering of Labor members who are also members of the Third Way Council. They were convened by Labor Secretary-General Nissim Zvilli in an effort to get them to actively campaign against the Third Way turning itself into a party, thereby pressuring Kahalani and Zissman.

However, out of the 60 Laborites invited, only 10 showed up. Zissman was one of the absentees. Kahalani is abroad.

Zvilli said that "Zissman and Kahalani will be required to resign from the Knesset and return their mandates to Labor. It is unthinkable that these two will bring down the government with votes that are Labor's. This is what it's all about. This government could fall because of the Third Way."

Zissman countered, however: "If anyone should resign it is Zvilli and his like, who so blatantly betrayed the platform on which they ran and turned their back on all the resolutions of the party conventions."

"Zvilli's mandate was won because the public voted for a certain platform, but now Labor is doing the precise opposite of everything it said," Zissman continued.

"Zvilli is already talking about the establishment of a Palestinian state and is talking about amending the Labor platform. He steadfastly defends every Meretz goal, which he shoves onto Labor. It is time Zvilli and his ilk decide to which party they belong."

Zissman maintained that he "won in the Labor primaries precisely because of my ideology, to

which I remain consistently faithful. There was a powerful coalition against me but I still prevailed. This indicates that despite the odds, there was considerable support in my constituency for my views. I promised my voters to stand for certain principles and I will not veer from them. The Third Way platform is an exact reflection of the 1992 Labor platform."

In Labor, there was a considerable shock at the low turnout. A senior source said that this "more than anything indicates how far we have drifted apart. Labor and the Third Way are about to sever all ties."

Meanwhile, Deputy Housing Minister Alex Goldfarb warned the government last night "not to count on my vote in favor of Oslo-2. I am not saying that I will vote against it. What I am saying is that whoever is now conducting the negotiations with Arafat will have to sit with me and try long and hard to convince me that this agreement is a good one for the people of Israel and that it will pose no danger whatever either to settlers or to the soldiers."

Labor also convened new immigrant members at Ramat Efiel yesterday. They were addressed by Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who admitted that "immigrants may well decide the outcome of the 1996 elections." He exhorted those present to go out and enlist support for Labor in their communities.

He severely took the Jewish Agency to task for what he argued is "an ever-decreasing role in absorption." The grants immigrants receive remain the same, but the Jewish Agency pays less and less of them. The government now foots the lion's share of absorption bill, with the Jewish people around the world shouldering less and less of the burden."



Lod municipal officials gather up marijuana plants on a 2.5-dunam patch discovered at nearby Moshav Hadid yesterday. The owner of the field was arrested. (Yossi Zeliger/TPA)

Two men suspected of helping car importer win tender freed on bail

RAINE MARCUS

A Defense Ministry maintenance man and an employee of a cement company, suspected of conspiring to take bribes, were released on NIS 29,000 bail each by the Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court yesterday.

Avi Avni, 43, employed by the ministry, allegedly conspired with Yohanan Rafiah, 62, who

worked for a company with close business connections with the ministry, to help Meir Honda, a vehicle importer, win a tender.

The two, said police, were in close contact with Meir Honda, and asked the company for tens of thousands of shekels to help it win a Defense Ministry tender for the purchase of tractors.

Two remanded for burglary

TWO men, suspected of stealing \$180,000 and a large amount of gold jewelry from a home, were remanded for five days yesterday by the Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court.

Yoram Mazon and Shlomi Boshri, who have records for drug offenses, allegedly robbed the home while the owners were at a wedding. Police believe they were informed the apartment would be empty and about the cash and jewelry by the couple's nephews. Ronen and Haim Dargor, who were placed under house arrest.

Raine Marcus

Nazi memorabilia auction planned again

YAD Vashem yesterday called for a boycott of the Zodiac Stamps Co., which is planning to hold a public auction of Nazi memorabilia. This would break a previous agreement with Zodiac owner Menashe Marizak that such sales would not take place, and the items would be donated to Yad Vashem.

The catalog for Zodiac's October auction contains items owned by Nazis or their supporters, such as SS death's head badges and photographs of Adolf Hitler.

In the past, Marizak had offered for auction soap

reportedly made from the fat of Jews, but canceled that sale due to the adverse publicity.

"This awful commerce in Holocaust memorabilia is a crime, without feeling or humanity," Yad Vashem chairman Avner Shalev said in a letter to Marizak.

Museum sources said Yad Vashem is considering taking legal action to stop the auction.

Knesset Speaker Shevah Weiss said he is investigating whether such an auction would violate the Basic Law: Human Dignity and Freedom.

litm

NEWS IN BRIEF

Shabbat work on bypass roads to stop

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin yesterday ordered that for now all Shabbat work on bypass roads in Judea and Samaria be stopped. He was responding to requests from Shas and United Torah Judaism.

He said he is sure with extra effort, the obstacles to paving the roads could be overcome without resorting to working on Shabbat.

Jerusalem Post Staff

Youth remanded on suspicion of murder

A 17-year-old from Ma'alot, suspected in the stabbing death of local resident Oleg Kalashnikov, 30, on Wednesday night, was remanded for 10 days yesterday by Acre Magistrate's Court.

The police said both had criminal records and the killing occurred during an argument about the cost of drugs.

litm

Speeding motorcyclist loses license

The Nazareth Traffic Court yesterday permanently suspended the motorcycle license of a 25-year-old Afula man caught riding at a speed of 153 kph. The court also suspended his license for driving all vehicles for eight months, and fined him NIS 1,500.

litm

Weizmans host olim for Rosh Hashana

President Ezer Weizman and his wife Reuma hosted 400 new immigrants last night at a pre-Rosh Hashana dinner in the gardens of Beit Hanassi in Jerusalem.

The guests included some 100 soldiers without families in the country, a similar number of pupils from the CIS studying here, and immigrant families who recently arrived.

Earlier in the day, the Weizmans received members of the diplomatic corps for a New Year's toast.

Basheva Tsur

Horses killed in Jaffa stable fire

A large fire broke out yesterday afternoon in a warehouse used as a stable on Sderot Yerushalayim in Jaffa, near Bat Yam.

A loud explosion was heard during firefighting efforts, and an investigation revealed a 48-liter gas tank had exploded. A local resident and a fireman were hurt by the blast, and were taken to the hospital suffering from shock and smoke inhalation.

At least four horses were burned to death. The stable - made of wood and other flammable materials - and a large amount of hay were destroyed.

The cause of the fire has not yet been determined, and at press time firemen were still working on extinguishing the blaze.

litm

Federman placed under house arrest

Jerusalem Magistrate's Court Judge Amir Avrahami decided yesterday to release former Kach spokesman Noam Federman from jail, but placed him under house arrest until the end of legal proceedings against him.

Federman was arrested last week, and indicted on four counts of disobeying an order issued by OC Central Command Maj.-Gen. Ilan Biran limiting his movement to an area near his home in Hebron's Tel Rumeida.

The decision will be appealed in Jerusalem's District Court today both by the state's attorney, who wants Federman in police custody until the end of his trial, and by Federman, who is appealing the house arrest.

Herb Keiron

Population tops 5.5 million

AS 5756 begins, the country's population stands at 5,570,000, including about 4,510,000 Jews (81%) and some 805,000 Moslems (14.4%), 160,000 Christians (2.9%), and about 95,000 Druse (1.7%).

The population of Israel increased about 2.6% in the past year, up some 139,000, a rate of increase similar to the previous year. About 58% of this was due to natural increase. The Jewish population was up by about 103,000, about half of this through natural increase. The Jewish population was up about 2.3%.

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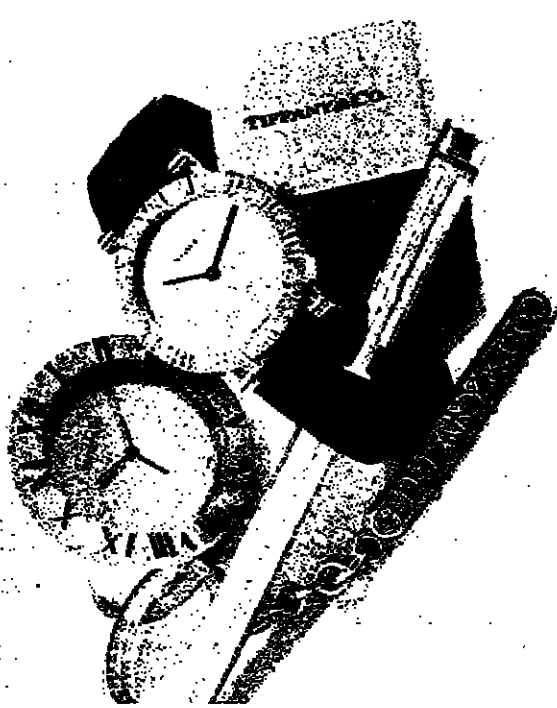
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The rich get richer...

THE Knesset Finance Committee holds hearings next week on reports that the national lottery, Mifal Hapayis, has approved outrageous severance and pension arrangements for its chairman, former Likud MK Gideon Gadot.

According to the reports, the Mifal Hapayis board agreed to calculate Gadot's cumulative pension rights at a rate of six percent a year for every year of work (compared to a maximum of 2 percent a year for other pensionable employees). Estimates put the value of Gadot's severance package at NIS 10 million, or a monthly pension of NIS 42,000.

Gadot's case is a reprehensible example of a greedy official sitting on a pot of gold and scraping off quite a bit for himself and his cronies.

The problem: It isn't merely the case of one greedy official, but the latest in a pattern that is becoming prevalent in the "anything goes" Rabinite Israeli version of American Reaganomics.

Consider the following examples:

Shimon Sheves, former director-general of the Prime Minister's Office, was also given a golden handshake with astronomical pension rights, although he only served for two-and-a-half years, is only in his mid-40s, and ostensibly left government service for the greener pastures of the private sector.

In the Histadrut, newly elected Chairman Haim Ramon, who declared he would be cleaning the Augean stables of the corruption of years of monopolistic Labor Party control, recently approved payments of over NIS 3,000,000 (\$1 million) a year for the legal

YOSEF GOELL

adviser in charge of the sale of Hevrat Ovdim, the Histadrut holding company.

Ramon and other Histadrut leaders expressed surprise that anyone was shocked, since it is "normal" for lawyers to work on commission, and the sale came to hundreds of millions of dollars.

Let too many tears be shed for the Histadrut, it was also revealed that local labor council heads were earning monthly salaries of well over NIS 20,000,

Israel is integrating with a vengeance into the class-ridden Middle East

while the average gross salary of Israeli workers, whose interests are ostensibly represented by the Histadrut, is about NIS 4,500.

SUCH RIP-OFFS of the public purse, whether governmental, municipal, or Histadrut, are serious enough. But in many ways they reflect much more serious trends in the private sector.

Since companies that are traded on the stock exchange are required to make public the earnings of their top officers, we now know that monthly incomes of the top officials (not the owners) of commercial and industrial companies, banks and insurance companies range from NIS 40,000 to several hundred thousand a month - regardless of whether the companies are making a profit.

The relationship between what is happening in the two sectors is that the top people in each sector hobnob with each other, and a good part of the fuel that drives the rip-offs in the public sector is derived from personal envy of what fat-cat friends are making in the private sector.

Recent international economic reports show that, from being one of the most egalitarian societies among modern industrial states about 25 years ago, Israel has become the least egalitarian, ranking just above the US. It also shares the shame of having the highest proportion of children living in families below the poverty line.

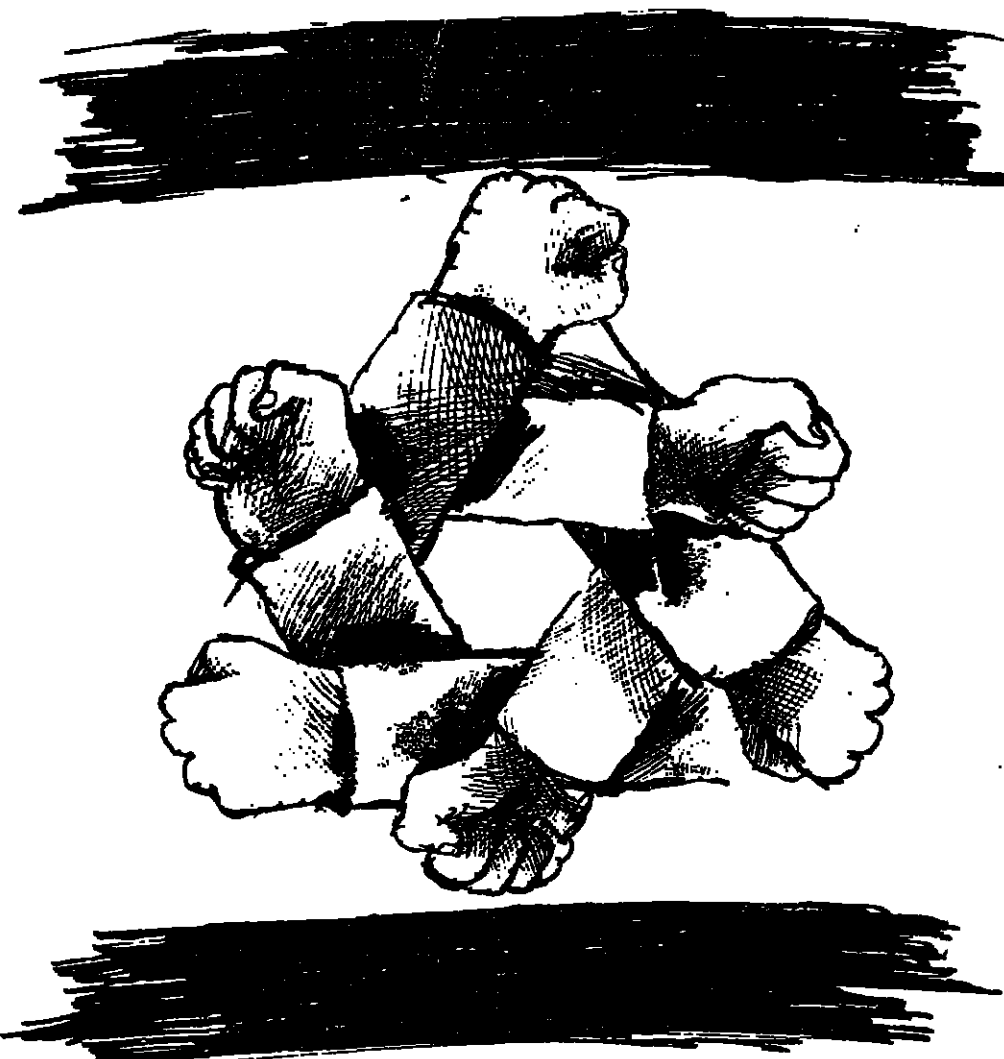
Rabin's Israel - and that of the Likud's Binyamin Netanyahu and Meretz's and Haim Ramon's New Left yuppies - would seem to be integrating with a vengeance into the class-ridden Middle East, whether the corrupt old Arab one, or Shimon Peres's new one.

Labor, especially under Rabin, is now a party which supports not only a free-market economy, but the worst aspects of 19th-century, robber-baron capitalism.

The politicians of North African origin, who under David Levy are in the process of splitting away from the Likud under the banner of socio-economic justice, could theoretically provide the political framework for a reversal of these trends.

But given Levy's long record of all talk and bluster and little if any action, that remains a highly dubious proposition.

The writer comments on current affairs.



Scant fellow feeling in Zion

STAN GOODENOUGH

demness human beings naturally show toward those who have suffered as they have?

We hear you talking about "the putrid fruit of the settlements," or vowing one day to hold "peace crimes trials," and you're talking about one another, Jew about Jew.

It seems as if some of you are so averse to - or ashamed of - the religious beliefs of your country-

short decades. Surely you cannot believe that you are living in a brave new world.

OH ISRAEL. Having stood together, and thus remained distinctively Jewish, in the face of antisemitism from "Christians" - Catholic, Spanish, British, German and Soviet - and from Moslems, I fear you may now fall divided among yourselves within the boundaries

'One would expect a nation as despised and rejected as yours to stand together against its foes'

men that you will side with the enemy to destroy the very things your fellow-Jews believe in. It is very hard to understand how some Israelis can applaud the embracing of men who have personally delighted in acts of anti-Jewish terror, while denigrating religious Jews in Gaza, Judea and Samaria.

You are not hated because some of you are "fundamentalist" in your beliefs, but because you are Jews. All of history attests to this fact. Are you now blaming one another for the prejudice directed against you all?

It is only 50 years since the liberation of the Nazi camps; just five

of your finally restored home. I fear that the Gentiles, who strove, and failed, to absorb you into themselves, may have their victory after all.

Surely this is a betrayal of all those who stood firm, all those who fought against assimilation, all those who refused to be baptized or converted by force, all those who went to the gas chambers with Shema on their lips. The nations stand at your borders and laugh as they watch you turning on yourselves. They feel sure that their centuries-old goal will finally be achieved.

How many more bus bombings

and kidnappings will it take, I wonder, before you acknowledge that perhaps those calls for jihad really mean what they say? It's exactly what so many of Europe's Jews said. They said that Hitler's spelled-out designs for them were just empty rhetoric.

It's not doing any good. After all the sacrifices you have made for peace, all the compromises, all the risks you have been willing to take with your safety and your security, there has been no lessening of the animus directed toward you by western leaders. No pro-Israel element, or any softening of attitude, has surfaced in the coverage Israel receives in the international press.

And witness the refusal of the vast majority of the world's nations, led by the so-called Christian ones, to attend your celebrations heralding Jerusalem 3000.

The truth is that there has been no change at all. Expectations of you and demands on you are increasing. The only time you win any sign of acceptance is when you indicate a willingness to relinquish your millennia-old Jewish beliefs, claims and traditions, and become a more homogeneous part of the human race.

Is this really the price you are willing to pay?

The writer edits the Middle East Intelligence Digest, a publication of the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem.

...and the poor get poorer

DAN LEON

PERSONAL security is the outstanding issue on which it is assumed that Israeli governments stand or fall.

Yet what sort of personal security is being provided for the approximately 20 percent of Israeli children who live below the poverty line? According to recent figures, 174,000 families, a total of 616,000 people, including 262,000 children, are living in poverty in Israel.

Well over a third of children in west Jerusalem are under the poverty line, as against 21 percent in Tel Aviv and 14 percent in Haifa. (The poverty line is NIS 833 a month for an individual, NIS 1,333 for a couple, NIS 2,130 for parents with two children, without allowances and taxes.)

Were it not for the allowances, over a million Israelis would be under the poverty line.

The poor are those left behind in a society whose economy is considered to be booming. Unemployment is low, inflation under control, and the per-capita growth in gross domestic product over the last five years was 5.8 percent; last year it was 4.3 percent.

One doesn't need to be an economist to note that Bank Leumi's net profit increased by 162 percent during the last quarter, to see glittering new shopping centers, new cars, and more foreign vacations.

While the present government has taken some positive steps like ending discrimination against Arab citizens in children's allowances, and promises other anti-poverty measures, it seems resigned to the fact that affluence and an unjust distribution of the nation's wealth go hand in hand.

We have one of the widest gaps between rich and poor in the developed world. In 1993, the top 10 percent of Israelis made 9.4 times more than the bottom 10 percent; in 1994, they made 11.6 times more.

In fact, one out of every five workers earns only the minimum monthly wage of NIS 1,766,

while a whopping 50 percent earns no more than the average gross wage of NIS 4,200. The monthly gross salary of the director of Bank Leumi is NIS 53,727.

While many believe that raising the minimum wage would encourage employment, the government prefers the advice of the Manufacturers' Association, and recently raised the minimum wage (40 percent of the average wage) from NIS 1,776 to NIS 1,785, a difference that is

Were it not for allowances, over a million Israelis would be under the poverty line

enough to buy two portions of falafel.

Last year, managers' salaries rose over 14 percent, while ordinary factory and construction workers saw their hourly wages drop by 7 percent.

Poverty and discrimination in our economy have several faces: Women earn 58 percent of what men earn for the same work; for every four Ashkenazim with a BA, there is only one Oriental Jew, and he earns about 20 percent less. Our Arab citizens are the worst off of all.

ISRAEL IS a welfare state with social mechanisms ensuring that nobody goes hungry, or has nowhere to sleep. But the picture of political parties as expressing social priorities is blurred over.

Thus socialist Mapam can join with capitalist Shimi, and David Levy, who threatens to break the consensus, is accused of introducing an ethnic element into politics, as if he were responsible for the fact that most underprivi-

leged Jews come from an Oriental background. The old Histadrut is dead and the new one is still an unknown quality.

Though it can claim important economic achievements, our Labor government favors the sort of capitalism that is diametrically opposed to the traditionally egalitarian foundations of our society that its rhetoric still fosters. The prime minister himself opposes raising the minimum wage, or taxing stock-market profits.

Relatively little political discourse is devoted to social problems, largely because security and the conflict with the Arabs still dominate our thinking.

If there is to be a referendum or an election, they will be more about borders and defense than privatization. But in any case, here as in most Western democracies, the poor and underprivileged are a sort of subclass who wield little political power.

The leadership of the Black Panther social-ethnic protest movement of the 1970s was co-opted into the establishment. In 1993, then president Chaim Herzog warned that "the frightening percentage of citizens who live below the poverty line could easily undermine the moral foundations of our society." Were this true, one would see some signs of a moral and political protest movement. What we see is Zo Artzeem.

If the peace process succeeds, Israel's political agenda will also change. Perhaps then, the term personal security may come to refer to the socio-economic security of those who today suffer discrimination, but whose voice is drowned out by the dominant concern of public opinion - and of all the political parties - with military security.

The author is co-managing editor of the Palestine-Israel Journal.

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WORLD BRIEFS

Radio says 17 killed in Angolan attack
LUANDA (Reuters) — Armed bandits killed at least 17 people, many of them women and children, early yesterday in a village in northern Angola, state radio reported.

The radio report said the attack took place in a village held by the rebel UNITA movement outside the town of Negage in the northern Uige province. The report quoted an eyewitness as saying the gunmen opened fire on women and children in the early hours yesterday after trying to steal food.

House votes to tighten Cuban embargo
WASHINGTON (AP) — The House voted yesterday to tighten pressure on Fidel Castro's Cuba with steps Secretary of State Warren Christopher said would damage prospects for peaceful change and hinder US interests around the world.

Voting 294-130, the House approved a bill that would strengthen the US embargo against Cuba, partly by increasing US pressure against other countries to join it.

The bill would require the president to withhold aid from countries that deal with Cuba, deny entry of anyone who traffics in US property confiscated by Castro and make plans for assisting an elected Cuban government.

Mandela calls for public to help police
BOKSBURG, South Africa (AP) — President Nelson Mandela got personally involved yesterday in the hunt for South Africa's latest serial killer, calling on the public to help the police in a case that has terrorized this town near Johannesburg.

Evidence searches were winding up in the remote field where the 10 bodies of black women were found earlier this week, and a US expert on serial killers had been called in to help South Africans develop a suspect profile.

Japan's Socialists vote to disband
TOKYO (AP) — The troubled Socialist party of Prime Minister Tomichi Murayama decided yesterday to disband next month and regroup under a new name in hopes of broadening its popularity.

But the party's deep divisions and its failure to offer a clear platform seemed likely to accelerate its declining power in Japan's conservative-dominated Parliament.

After a lengthy, largely critical debate, delegates at a party convention accepted a leadership proposal that would officially end the party's 50-year history and transform it into a "liberal" group that would try to win over the majority of Japanese who say they are fed up with the glacial pace of reform in Japan.

Mondale: 'We are ashamed'
TOKYO (AP) — US Ambassador Walter Mondale apologized yesterday for the alleged rape of a 12-year-old girl by three US servicemen, and agreed to review the special legal status given American military personnel in Japan.

"It is outrageous, inexcusable. We are ashamed and we apologize," Mondale said to Foreign Minister Yohei Kono in a meeting to discuss the case.

The rape earlier this month on the southern Japanese island of Okinawa has dominated headlines and sparked widespread outrage among the Okinawan people, many of whom resent the presence of US military bases.

Pisa's leaning tower has stabilized
PISA, Italy (AP) — The leaning tower of Pisa has stopped its leaning, for the moment.

Some 780 tons of lead placed at the base as a counterweight have halted the tower's tilting, according to measurements released yesterday by the University of Pisa.

An additional 180 tons of lead were added in the last week to the already existing 600 tons that have been placed on the tower's non-leaning side since 1993. The counterweight has helped reverse the inclination of the tower, said Antonio Lazzarini, director of Pisa's historic society and expert on the tower.

Lazzarini said yesterday's measurements show the 54-meter tower, has now reached equilibrium and is still. "But the lead counterweights can't hold it forever, and the tower will probably start moving again in four or five months," Lazzarini added.

The tower, begun in 1173, began to tilt almost immediately after it was completed as the ground shifted underneath. It leans some four meters off the perpendicular.



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Hedy Mandel
 on the passing of her
 father

With great sorrow we announce the passing
 of our beloved
JOE ELSTEIN ז"ל

The funeral was held
 on Sunday, September 17, 1995 in London
 He is mourned by:

His wife, **Zelda**
 His son, **Michael Elstein**
 His daughter, **Sonia Deetz**

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JOSEPH TAREM (Drimmer)

The funeral will take place TODAY, Friday, September 22, 1995 at 11:30 a.m.,
 leaving from his home, 58 South Africa Avenue, Atlat, Ashkelon.
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 His wife, **Shifrah**
 His sons, **Manasseh and Zvi**
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 to mark the first anniversary of the passing of
 our dearly beloved husband and nephew

DAN LANDAU

who died on the first night of Rosh Hashana 5755,
 will be held on Wednesday, September 27, 1995 at 3:30 p.m.

Those who wish to attend are requested
 to meet at the entrance to
 Har Hamenuhot, Givat Shaul, Jerusalem

Greer Fay Cashman

Batya Landau



A Bosnian government soldier passes by army headquarters with his wife and baby. (Reuters)

Bosnian offensive halts, Serbs on defensive

BOSNIAN government and
Croat troops yesterday halted an
offensive which has given them
control over half of Bosnia and
pushed Serbs already battered by
NATO air attacks onto the
defensive.

The pause in the 11-day onslaught, which routed Serbs forces and turned tens of thousands of civilians into refugees, appeared to head off a deepening of the conflict which could have derailed fragile peace efforts.

In Sarajevo, NATO and the UN welcomed a newly compliant mood from the Serbs, saying the Serbs had met their demand to lift the siege of Sarajevo and pull back siege guns.

But NATO warned that strikes, suspended a week ago to give the Serbs time to comply, would come hard and fast if the Bosnian Serbs reneged on their agreements.

The United Nations had

KURT SCHORK
SARAJEVO

warned the Sarajevo and Zagreb governments their joint offensive in western Bosnia could endanger the US-led peace negotiations, especially if they forced a fight for the Bosnian Serb stronghold of Banja Luka.

"The United Nations has reports that offensive operations in western Bosnia have virtually ceased," UN spokesman Alexander Ivankov said in Zagreb.

"Croatian units have been seen withdrawing across the international border into Croatia. There are indications that the situation around Banja Luka has also stabilized," he said.

Moslem-led Bosnian government forces with their Bosnian Croat allies backed by regular army troops from Croatia itself have formed a snake-like front-line from the Croatian border,

around Banja Luka and in towards central Bosnia.

But they have stopped short of Banja Luka itself, a Serb stronghold swollen by refugees driven out of western Bosnia by the Bosnian-Croat offensive which at a stroke has redrawn the map of Bosnia in a way years of talks failed to do.

NATO and the United Nations said yesterday that the withdrawal of Serb heavy weapons around the Bosnian capital Sarajevo meant a resumption of air strikes was "currently not necessary."

In a joint statement issued several hours after a 10 p.m. Wednesday deadline expired, the Atlantic alliance and the UN said Serb commanders had met the demand to lift the 41-month siege of the Bosnian capital.

They said 235 heavy weapons had been pulled out of the 20-km. exclusion zone around the capital. (Reuters)

Turkey's Ciller asked to form new government

ANKARA (Reuters) — Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller was asked yesterday by President Suleyman Demirel to form a new government, the day after the collapse of her left-right coalition, Ciller's office said.

"The president asked her to form a new government," an official from Ciller's office told Reuters. "She has changed her plans for a trip and will stay in Ankara tomorrow to meet other party leaders to focus on forming a government."

Ciller had remained as caretaker prime minister following her resignation on Wednesday after a rift over domestic security issues with the social democrats, under their new leader Deniz Baykal, ending the wobbly coalition between them and her conservative True Path Party (DYP).

Main opposition Motherland Party (ANAP) leader Mesut Yilmaz yesterday virtually ruled out forming a lasting coalition with 49-year-old Ciller. He told private ATV television that he would only consider taking part in a coalition if early elections were called ahead of the next scheduled polls in October 1996.

Ciller said earlier that early elections would be a mistake and vowed to press on with her own policy agenda.

Millions flock to India temples after statue 'drinks milk'

NEW DELHI, India (AP) — Millions of devout Hindus flocked to temples across the country yesterday after reports that the statue of their favorite god was drinking milk.

Scientists dismissed reports of a miracle and explained that milk offered to the elephant-headed Lord Ganesha trickled down the granite or marble idol in a thin film that was not easily visible.

Ganesha is one of the more popular gods in the Hindu religion and is credited with bringing prosperity.

The reports began early in the morning in cities such as New Delhi, Bombay and Calcutta. The faithful — bearing milk in everything from earthen and steel pots to tumblers and jugs — converged on the temples.

Police and paramilitary soldiers guarded temples in the cities. In the northern town of Jamshepur, police waved bamboo canes to regulate a 500-strong crowd that tried to storm a temple.

Milk shortages were reported in many cities. In Calcutta, cafes stopped offering their customers milk with tea and instead sold it for 120 rupees (\$4) a liter, 10 times the normal price.

In New Delhi, people began lining up at temples as early as 4 a.m. and many reported to work late. Police estimates in major cities put the number of devotees at millions.

"It is a miracle," said A.K. Tiwari, a priest at a temple in southern New Delhi.

He said the excitement at his temple began after a devotee said he had dreamed that the deity wanted milk. When the man, who wasn't identified, held a spoonful of milk near the statue's trunk, the milk disappeared. Yesterday was not a Hindu festival day.

The faithful dismissed suggestions of a hoax.

"It cannot be a hoax. Where would all the milk being offered go. It is such a small idol, it can't take in so much," said Parmesh Soti, a business executive who stood in line.

"I tried it at my house and to my utter disbelief a spoonful of milk disappeared... I am not a superstitious person, but this occurred in front of my eyes," said Manohar Joshi, the chief minister of Maharashtra state, where Ganesha worship is popular.

United News of India news agency said Hindus in countries as far away as the United States, Britain, Dubai and Hong Kong reported similar experiences in their homes and in local temples.

So widespread were the reports of a miracle that scientists from the federal government's Department of Science and Technology were asked to investigate.

The scientists offered milk mixed with colored pigments to an idol in a New Delhi temple. Although it disappeared from the spoon, it soon coated the idol.

The scientists said molecules of milk flowing from the spoon pull down other molecules because of surface tension.

Ito: Jurors can consider second-degree murder

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Jurors may convict O.J. Simpson of second-degree murder rather than only first-degree murder, the judge ruled yesterday, making it easier for jurors to return a guilty verdict.

The ruling means the jury won't need as much evidence to convict Simpson of murder. To convict him of second-degree murder, jurors won't have to find that Simpson carefully weighed his actions before committing a murder.

Judge Lance Ito said the evidence could reasonably show that the killing of Goldman was not premeditated since Goldman wasn't expected to show up at Ms. Simpson's house the night of the murders.

"I don't think there's any reasonable interpretation that would not indicate that Mr. Goldman's presence at the crime scene was by sheer chance," Ito said.

The judge said there is a "plausible argument" Goldman wasn't the intended victim.

With the jury given the day off, Ito also rejected a defense request that jurors be told they can ignore all of retired Detective Mark Fuhrman's testimony.

Ito refused to tell the jury that if a witness lies in one important part of his testimony, then all of his testimony may be rejected.

An accompanying defense proposal, also rejected, said jurors could ignore all of Fuhrman's testimony if they found he lied about his racial views.

Even though Ito won't give jurors guidance on the issue, the panelists have the right to reject any or all of Fuhrman's testimony. The instruction merely would have highlighted the issue and given jurors further legal justification for ignoring his testimony.

Ito went through complaints from both sides on special jury instructions to come up with a text. He plans to instruct the jury today. Jurors were given yesterday off so attorneys could work out the legal loose ends.

Before yesterday's hearing, Ito said both sides should rest their cases today. After a three-day weekend that includes Rosh Hashana, the jury may hear closing arguments beginning Tuesday — the first anniversary of jury selection.

Russians storm bus, free hostages

MOSCOW (AP) — Dozens of elite anti-terrorist forces stormed a hijacked bus in the southern Russian republic of Dagestan yesterday and freed 18 hostages held by gunmen demanding \$1.5 million and a helicopter.

Alexander Korcheba, a duty officer at the Federal Security Service in Moscow, said the hostages had been freed and "the terrorists have been neutralized."

Korcheba said two gunmen seized the bus Wednesday night at the terminal in Makhachkala, the capital of Dagestan, after being questioned and searched by police for suspicious behavior. The ITAR-Tass news agency said the two gunmen were apprehended by a joint force of "Alpha" Interior Ministry troops and officers of the FSB's anti-terrorist center, which had been created only a few days ago.

ITAR-Tass said all the hostages had been freed without casualties. It said one of the gunmen was burned slightly during the storming of the bus.

Early reports from the Federal Security Service in Makhachkala said the hijackers had, accomplices aboard the bus who were also arrested. A spokesman for the Russian Interior Ministry said in Moscow that two persons were checked for suspected complicity, "but it seems that one has been cleared and released."

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Labor veteran Zvi Alderoty, left, replaced Shimon Sheves as Prime Minister Rabin's right-hand man. 'My job is to stroke ministers.'



(Brian Hender; Isaac Harari)

Rabin's Mr. Insider starts with a clean slate

Zvi Alderoty, the new director-general of the Prime Minister's Office, is a far cry from his predecessor, writes David Makovsky

ZVI Alderoty, the director-general of the Prime Minister's Office, firmly believes that one attracts bees with honey rather than with vinegar.

During a recent tour of Jewish and Arab towns in the North, Alderoty, who has been in the job for four months, said, "My job is to stroke [cabinet ministers] and make it clear to them that I don't want to take any credit away from them. I don't threaten them. Rather, I want to ensure that things don't fall between the cracks of different ministries."

The 61-year-old Alderoty is a quintessential insider, wealthy businessman, former head of the Migdal Ha'emek local council, and longstanding Rabin supporter in the Labor Party, of which he has been a member for 35 years. In working with Rabin, he is avoiding the antagonisms created by his predecessor, Shimon Sheves.

Sheves believed that, if the prime minister is going to get reelected in 1996, he must have his finger on the pulse of domestic problems and not just worry about Palestinian autonomy, Syria, and US-Israeli relations. Rabin's emphasis on domestic themes in 1992 played a key role in his election victory.

Now, since a directly elected prime minister will be held responsible for all the country's problems, he won't be able to get away with the attitude of former prime minister Yitzhak Shamir, who once said: "The prime minister does not handle economic issues."

As Sheves saw the country redefining the prime minister's role, he reorganized the bureau with a greater stress on economic matters - since 1967 it had largely worked as a super-Foreign Ministry or super-Defense Ministry. With regard to ministers, Sheves believed that, left to their own devices, they would seek to protect their own bureaucratic turf instead of cooperating to help the government as a whole.

While Sheves's concept may prove prescient - as the country becomes more preoccupied with domestic issues, and as its electoral system shifts - he was not the man to implement his own idea. Though perhaps he was right to rattle the bureaucratic gates and knock the politicians' heads together, ultimately Sheves had neither the patience nor, apparently, the insider knowledge needed to wield the levers of bureaucratic power.

He did not succeed in quickening the pace of cheaper housing for young couples as he had wanted, and plans to give preferred development status to new areas were snarled in red tape. The staff that he hired for the new role soon left, one after another.

As Sheves publicly vented his frustration with the policies of Finance Minister Avraham Shohat and Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer, charging that they could cost Rabin reelection, the two ministers made common cause with each other and prompted Rabin to weaken Sheves's role to the extent that Sheves resigned last spring.

ENTER ALDEROTY, supported by a network of contacts. It is hoped that the new man will achieve through persuasion what Sheves failed to achieve by brute force and threats.

An exemplar of the old boys' network, Alderoty went to school with Shohat and has longstanding party ties with the older ministers in the coalition. (David Ben-Gurion and legendary Mapai economic wizard Pinhas Sapir spoke at a rally on Alderoty's behalf when he first ran for office in Migdal Ha'emek in 1959. The picture hangs on Alderoty's wall.)

Furthermore, ministers seem to feel secure that Alderoty does not have Sheves's political ambitions. Sheves would tell reporters that he was in line to become a minister in the event of a cabinet shake-up.

Sources reveal that, on taking office, Alderoty said that he wanted to start with a clean slate, although a former worker, suspected in the office of relaying data to Sheves, was apparently subjected to a body search in Alderoty's office.

Alderoty has definitely succeeded in lowering tension between ministers, and he believes he will succeed in the bigger task at hand: using the bureaucratic maze to solve local problems, thereby garnering grassroots support for Rabin's reelection.

Meeting with local officials in Baka al-Gharbiya and in the Jezreel Valley, Alderoty was most animated when rattling off a series of governmental acronyms that could be helpful to solving a myriad of local problems.

Although he could not resist telling local leaders how he used to deal with the system during his 18-year tenure as head of the Migdal Ha'emek council in the '60s and '70s, he does not seem to be the type who lives in the past. He said the government will boost funding for councils that train more software engineers, and he spoke about the need for greater privatization of government services due to the projected growth of urban sprawls over the next 10 years.

One of Alderoty's priorities is to complete the Sheves list of areas slated to receive preferred development status.

Procedurally jumping the gun, Alderoty was happy to announce that Baka al-Gharbiya will shortly become one of the 25 areas into which the government will pour special resources to make up for the lag in support in the past.

Alderoty is also proud to have spearheaded amended regulations, which have now been brought to the Knesset, that enshrine the principle of quicker housing starts. He expects 50,000 new units to be completed by next year's elections.

It should be noted that Alderoty once served as chairman of the government housing company Amidar before establishing a lucrative company that helped finance homes for Modi'in and a couple of other new residential areas.

"Having a background in finance and economics helps me enormously in my job now," he says. "People cannot overwhelm me with numbers during meetings. I can get quickly to heart of a matter."

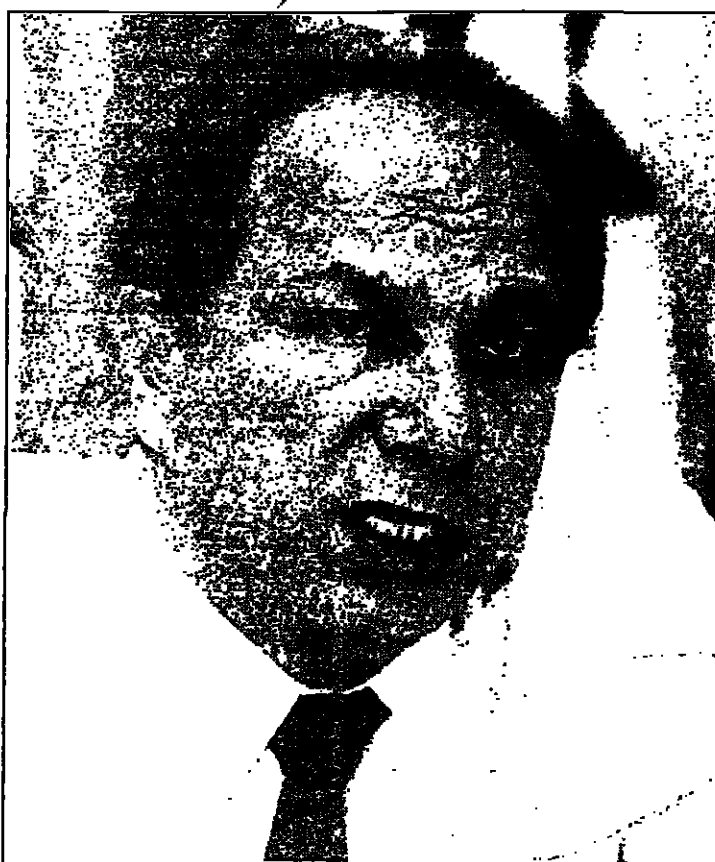
Alderoty is quick to say that he divested himself of all holdings upon assuming his new position. But it remains unclear if assets have gone into a blind trust, since he noted that his daughter has taken over his 5 percent share of a new regional radio station.

The new director-general says he is inspired to do all that he can out of loyalty to the prime minister, with whom he became friendly when Rabin toured Migdal Ha'emek during his first term as prime minister in 1974. He has since held a string of positions on Rabin's behalf.

Whether Rabin or the Likud's Binyamin Netanyahu is elected next year, the trend of the prime minister's involvement in domestic affairs is bound to intensify. And if the balance of power within the cabinet becomes more weighted toward the premier, there will be less need to stroke bruised ministerial egos. Then perhaps there will be more time to deal with the substantive problems at hand.

Bezeq head prepares for 21st century

Director-general Yitzhak Kaul has transformed the former monolith into a consumer-friendly, high tech infrastructure, Judy Siegel-Itzkovich reports



Bezeq's director-general Yitzhak Kaul: 'Everyone joins in believing customer service is number one.'

THE news that Bezeq and Kupat Holim Clalit have decided jointly to produce three million "smart cards" - to carry health fund members' medical records and be "loaded" with money for purchasing goods and services - must have raised an ironic smile on the faces of their veteran customers.

A decade ago, these two enterprises were guilty of some of the country's worst red tape and treated customers with arrogance, but now they are on the cutting edge of high technology and striving for customer approval.

When Bezeq was established in 1984 as the nation's public telecommunications company and emerged from the cobwebs of the Communications Ministry, the waiting list for a new phone line in some areas was 10 years long. Dialing was hit-or-miss, reception at company offices nightmarish, and billing infamously ridden with errors.

One individual who can take more credit than anyone else for the revolution that has prepared Bezeq for the 21st century is Yitzhak Kaul, its 50-year-old director-general who oversaw the company's establishment and the transfer of 10,000 employees from the ministry.

Though still not perfect (Kaul spent part of the interview coping with the disconnection of 30,000 phone lines in Tel Aviv due to a computer breakdown that paralyzed the stock market), Bezeq is an Israeli technological and financial giant courted by international telecommunications titans like AT&T.

Britain's Cable & Wireless has pounced on 10 percent of its stock and seems hungry for more. Bezeq has a good chance of winning a tender, with overseas partners, to install tens of millions of phone lines in India, and is already hard at work in a number of other developing countries.

In a country where bosses are often picked according to their political or family connections or mere staying power, a professional manager like Kaul is still unusual, but he is one of a growing number of highly trained administrative experts. Born in the Soviet Union, he immigrated to Israel, spent his teen years in Ramat Gan and enlisted in the army, eventually becoming deputy communications officer of the Southern Command with the rank of lieutenant-colonel. He has a bachelor's and a master's degree in management and economics from Tel Aviv University, and spent two years in advanced studies at TAU's faculty of education. He is married and the father of three daughters: a law student, a soldier and an eighth grader.

He has worked in various positions in the Postal Services, the Postal Authority (which he founded and directed), and the Communications Ministry (as deputy director-general). He has run Bezeq since 1990. Of its current 9,000 staffers, Kaul estimates that he knows "several thousand" on a first-name basis. This familiarity has been cultivated on countless visits to Bezeq facilities around the country. His personal visits have also boosted the morale of employees who used to be ashamed to say where

they worked; but now, says Kaul, "their whole families identify with the company."

His need to "be there" was recently facilitated by a small video camera that sits atop the personal computer in his spacious, eighth-floor office in the company's new headquarters next to Jerusalem's Central Bus Station.

The camera picks up his image and transmits it to the offices of senior staffers throughout the country with whom he communicates by electronic mail.

When asked about the secret of his success, Kaul is modest. "Every manager makes mistakes," he says. "The important thing is to learn from them. Success is a matter of full cooperation from senior management and all the staff. Everyone joins in believing customer service is No. 1, coming even before the technology. Staff are selected according to their professional ability. In fact, I wrote my MA thesis on the failure of incentive pay to encourage staffers. And recently we canceled it and replaced it with other means to get Bezeq staff to do their best, such as constant supervision and recognizing talent."

For two years, he served as chairman of the Directors-General Forum for the Encouragement of Responsibility and Excellence in Management, and believes the universities' business administration schools are now producing many talented young managers who can get Israel's industry moving.

even though only 4 or 5 percent of its manpower and infrastructure investment are involved in it. This produced cross-subsidization - overly low domestic rates and expensive overseas rates - but this will quickly change. Kaul says he welcomes competition from Celcom, which provides cellular phone services at "ridiculous rates. But they have paid for their too-quick entry into Israel with a swarm of new customers and many technical problems." He also thinks it was a mistake for the ministry to have adopted a technical system that makes it impossible to use their cellular phones in Europe as well.

Asked about criticism of the ministry's decision to compensate Bezeq for "losses due to competition," by reducing by NIS 3 billion the royalties Bezeq must pay the Treasury, Kaul says there isn't a telecommunications company in the world that has been forced to pay 8 percent of its profits to the government or become as "efficient as Bezeq."

Although Kaul and Communications Minister Shulamit Aloni have their differences of opinion ("She doesn't understand the nitty-gritty of telecommunications, but she never claimed to, yet she does understand policy"), he gives her credit for her foreign initiatives. "It was she who invited me to go along on her trip to India a year ago, and this resulted in our establishing a consortium to build a massive telephone infrastructure." He also gets along famously with the new (media-shy) Bezeq chairman, Gurion Meltzer, a real maven in telecommunications who was a manager of Tadiran.

Another "myth" is that Bezeq staffers are rolling in money.

"When the company was established, it was decided to raise their ministry salaries, as an incentive, by 30 percent. Since then, wages have been raised exactly according to increases set by the government-Histadrut's collective agreement."

"These have been raised too high, and I've been demanding that heads of public companies be allowed to set salaries independently according to their needs."

Kaul said he left the mail services to set up Bezeq because he envisioned an era of electronic communications when telephone lines would carry data, pictures and sound simultaneously. "It will change our lives fundamentally. People will increasingly use their homes as a base for their work, and there will be a tremendous growth in leisure time. Virtual reality, telemedicine and personal cellular telephones will be in common usage. It will change our educational systems, and the greatest rewards will be for people who know how to obtain information over digital networks."

As for the "smart cards" that will soon come to Kupat Holim Clalit, Kaul says he kept this agreement secret, even from his wife - who works as deputy director of the Sharon district at Clalit's competitor Maccabi. "You can see that professional interests come first when it comes to Bezeq."

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Jerusalem	Mo'adon Ha'oleh	8:00 a.m.	15
	Binyanei Ha'uma	8:00 a.m.	15
Karmiel	Outside Post Office	8:00 a.m.	15
Nahariya	Bus Station	8:00 a.m.	15
Ashkelon	Opposite Bus Station	8:00 a.m.	15
Ashdod	Bus Station	8:30 a.m.	15
Safed	Yigal Allon Center	7:30 a.m.	15
Beersheba	Bus Station	7:30 a.m.	15
Arad	Bus Station	7:30 a.m.	15
Dimona	Matnass Dimona	7:00 a.m.	15
Haifa	Alongside Bus Station	8:30 a.m.	10
Tel Aviv	Hechal Hatarbut	8:30 a.m.	10
Ra'anana	Yad Lebanim	9:00 a.m.	10
Gush Etzion	Efrat Commerce Center	8:00 a.m.	15
Beit Shemesh + Givat Sharett	Bus Station at the Junction	8:30 a.m.	10

Return time from Wingate will be announced later.

Ticket Hotline: 09-989149/982957

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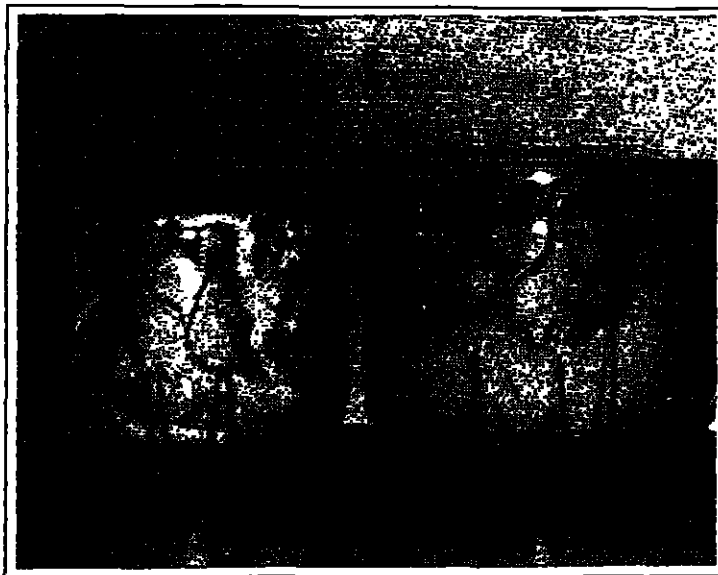


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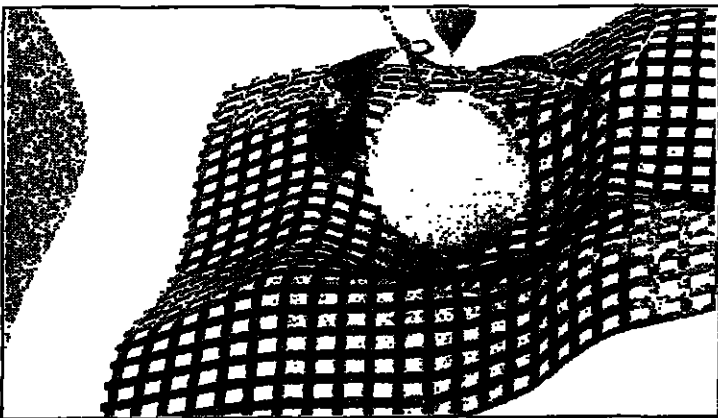
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A gift-giver's guide to arts, crafts and ideologies



Many of Marcelle Klein's pieces (above) have designs scratched into the glaze, such as abstract animals. At the Otenta Gallery, there are a number of specialties, such as this bronze covered iron basket.



Imna Airapetyan's vases and pencil holders are reminiscent of Picasso figures, blunt and distorted with sharp edges. (J. Bloom)



Luzzati Small Signs: A nameplate on the door is a way of inviting visitors. (Sarit Uzely)

Luzzati and his assistants silk-screen the designs onto the tiles, painting in the colors by hand and inscribing the name.

They also do hand engraving on a variety of metal, gold, silver, leather and wood items, and personalized wooden signs painted with cartoon characters for children's rooms. The characters are clever copies of Winnie the Pooh, Mickey and Minnie Mouse, the Little Prince, Power Rangers and others.

Luzzati Small Signs
12 Rivlin Street, Jerusalem (02) 256746
Price range: NIS 45-85.

There's plenty of handiwork available, both in the studio and in the street shop, for those on the lookout for a holiday gift, **Jessica Steinberg** writes

MY mother always told me that the best gifts are handmade.

Luckily, Israel has a plethora of talented artisans, potters, carpenters, quilters, silversmiths, painters and glassmakers.

What follows is a buyer's guide to the work of a dozen local craftspeople. Some sell from their studios and are glad to create a custom-made work, while others have opened small shops and are producing on a slightly larger scale. All are dedicated to the ideology of creating useful art and to the concept that everyone needs beauty in their environment.

KAKADU WAS founded when Reyt Shahar, a classically schooled carpenter by trade and sculptor by hobby, decided to combine her crafts to earn a living. After designing simple wooden trays painted with bright swaths of color in a variety of sizes, she took them to the annual Jerusalem Crafts Fair and sold out in one day. It took another year to convince her carpenter husband, Aharon, to join her in the venture. Four years ago Kakadu was born.

"The main idea behind Kakadu is to make something original, by hand, that is completely functional and industrial," emphasizes Shahar. Kakadu has 40 different household items including bed trays, vases, mugs, boxes, coasters, bowls, napkin holders and placemats, all made of durable African wood or Canadian pine, laminated for easy cleaning and decorated with African-inspired designs.

Kakadu now employs 30 people in a 500-square-meter factory that was formerly a moshav chicken coop. "We really have an ideology behind our work," says Shahar. "We want to show that art can come to people in all kinds of ways, not just by going

to a museum or gallery."
Kakadu, 12 Rivlin Street
Jerusalem (02) 233073
Price range: NIS 25-200

AYELET YANNAI buys recycled paper in bulk and creates one-of-a-kind calendars, message boards, notebooks and pocket-size address books (in both English and Hebrew).

Each piece incorporates stencils of flowers, geometric shapes or Asian images, with the look and feel of antique woodcuts, given the color and texture of the paints on rough but substantial brown recycled paper.

The notebooks and pads are all standard sizes and easily refilled. The calendars are particularly useful as Rosh Hashana gifts, and unlike other "art" calendars, they have space to write in each day's box. The message board uses desk-calculator paper rolls hung by a hinge on a stenciled block of wood.

Ayelet Yannaï
15 Nahalat Binyamin, off Allenby
Open Tuesdays and Fridays
Price range: NIS 12-50

QUILTING USUALLY brings to mind Betsy Ross and *Little House on the Prairie*, but not when viewing Tali Blumenau's distinctly patterned Near Eastern pillows, clothing, mirrors and jewelry. Velvets and silks in deep rich burgundies, blues and browns of the East create a "mizrahi" twist on this age-old tradition.

"I love what I do," says Blumenau. "I take pride in the clean lines of the fabric, the matching seams, the combination of colors."

Her work ranges from oversized quilted jackets and soft pouch bags to dresser mirrors framed in quilted squares and large oblong and rectangular pillows. Each piece is done within a

similar color range, creating a sense of pattern and rhythm. Smaller pieces include eyeglass cases, key rings and tiny pillow brooches. "I always do things a little differently each time," Blumenau explains. "But they're always things that you can use."

Tali Blumenau
Gallery Laor, Dizengoff Center; Eretz Yisrael Museum, Tel Aviv; RainBeau Gallery, Ramat Aviv; 16 Yoel Salomon Street, Jerusalem
Price range: NIS 80-230

I THOUGHT I'd found all the ceramicists in this country, but then I discovered Marcelle Klein's circular trivets and large serving pieces in cool slate blues and minty aqua greens. Always experimenting with new colors, her work features pieces in stone-ware white touched with flecks of 18-karat gold. "The texture in glaze appeals to me, and I make them all lead-free," says Klein, a South African speech therapist who took up pottery as a hobby, and now works at it full time.

Many of her pieces have designs scratched into the glaze, triangular patterns, such as abstract animals displayed in the ochre brown of the clay against a blue or green glaze.

Klein says that her designs change all the time, and can develop quite organically. While she was working on a set of salt and pepper shakers, a group of visiting children noted that the shakers looked like chickens. Now her chicken-shaped salt and pepper shakers, and hedgehog toothpick sets, are among her most popular items.

"I'm very into functional ware," says Klein. "I'm a practical person and pottery allows people to use and touch art on a daily basis."

For Rosh Hashana, she has



Kakadu's Reyt Shahar: We want to show that art can come to people in all kinds of ways, not just by going to a museum or gallery. (Sarit Uzely)

created apple-and-honey sets in white flecked with gold, and in her standard blue and green. There are also fork and knife holders in fish shapes and aromatic candle holders for picnic tables, using citronella candles that she makes in her Kochav Ya'ir studio.

Marcelle Klein
Kochav Ya'ir, (09) 493635; Tamarind, Ramat Hasharon, (03) 540-9054; Kad Kafe, Kfar Hess, (09) 967535; Rosmarin, Kfar Sava, (09) 950958
Price range: NIS 10-200

IF **UGO LUZZATI** could rewrite history, Abraham would have hung a nameplate on his tent flap to welcome those first visitors. "I think nameplates are a very Israeli tradition," says Luzzati, a graphic designer from Genoa, Italy. "It's because of the character of the people [here], they don't fear putting their name on the door; it's a way of welcoming people to your home."

Luzzati started out buying Armenian-designed nameplates in Hebron, handwriting the names and selling the tiles at street fairs.

Then he discovered an Italian ceramic tile that absorbs the painted colors and ink into the tile after its first burning, enabling the nameplate to be ready within half an hour, without the lengthy baking process required for the Armenian method.

The technicalities behind him, Luzzati put his graphic design talents to work creating unique motifs in a rich range of colors. Among the patterns are classic Armenian flowers and several new designs created by Russian artists using stencils and sponges.

THE MEN and women painted on Imna Airapetyan's vases and pencil holders have arresting faces with oversized features and awkward, lanky bodies. Painted against a collage of periwinkle blues or sandy browns, these striking drawings of people eating, drinking and smoking are very reminiscent of Picasso figures, blunt and distorted with sharp edges.

"People say they are very European looking," says Airapetyan. "I don't know. I just start drawing and they come to me."

Airapetyan studied painting and drawing in Moscow before coming here five years ago. She buys both factory and handmade vases, painting them in the makeshift studio on the roof of her Tel Aviv apartment building.

"I'd rather be doing oil paintings," she says, smiling. "But I've found something that's useful to sell and satisfies my art craving."

Imna Airapetyan, (03) 510-2826, Nahalat Binyamin, every Tuesday and Friday.
Price range: NIS 35-80.

ARYEH OFIR and Yonah Sheri had several concepts in mind when opening the Otenta Gallery three years ago: to sell Israeli crafts in an art gallery atmosphere, to market and export local-made crafts and to present the work of 36 artists on a rotating basis.

In Otenta, presentation is at a premium. Each artist has a number of shelves in the brightly lit glass cabinets.

"This is a group of artists chosen by Aryeh, who as curator looks for a very high level of work," says Sheri, who takes care of the marketing and managerial end of the business.

The specialties of the Otenta artists vary widely. Amit Shur works with metals and produces a wide range from modern Judaica to beautifully rendered silver-plate bookmarks featuring inset squares of Beduin embroidery.

Glassmaker Batya Margalit creates gently molded blue and green tinted bowls, inlaid with thread and wire.

Yael Brisker designs brass vessels using metal weaving with oxide motifs inspired by the Mediterranean and the Middle East.

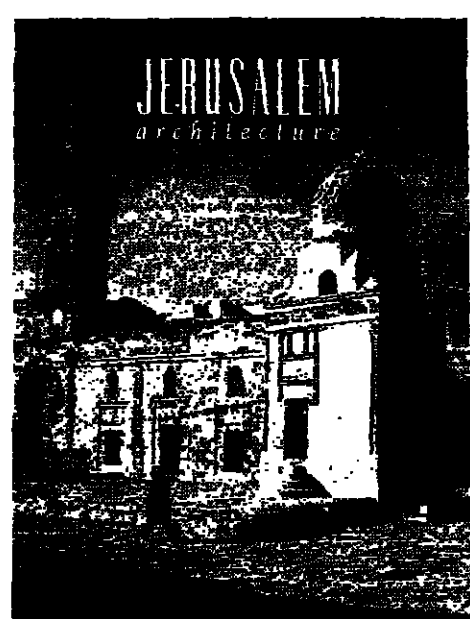
Signal Lifshitz creates squat candlesticks in brass, silver gold and oxide.

Using ceramics, artist Gitit Tanpy produces whimsically painted bowls, mugs and boxes using beaded wire.

Joanne Ginsberg paints her platters, bowls, mugs and saucers with a psychedelic circular pattern which winds its way around each piece.

Otenta Gallery
Opera Tower, 2nd Floor, 1 Allenby Road, Tel Aviv, (03) 510-7072

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הגדלה מן האל

Violence is not the answer in our society

CAPITAL TALK

TEDDY KOLLEK with Amos Kollek

RECENTLY I was shocked to hear that a man I have known for years, a colonel in the reserves, formerly the military governor of Hebron and a well-liked, well-respected restaurant owner, had shot and wounded two of his neighbors, a mother and her son. While I certainly do not know all the facts in the case and it is not my place to pass judgment on the man or his actions, I am struck by the fact that this seemed like another sad symptom of our times: the drift towards pointless violence in our society. Fights among neighbors don't occur in a vacuum. They happen in the context of a society.

Today, wherever one goes, whenever one turns on the television or radio or opens a newspaper, one is confronted with violence, with defiance of the government and the rule of law. It comes from the settlers on the West Bank, from members of the Knesset, from rabbis addressing their followers in synagogues or political rallies. One might get the impression that the law exists in order to be broken, and the government in order to be resisted and toppled.

In a country of our own, created, in part, as a response to genocide and to ensure that our people

will never again be threatened with extinction because of the hatred of others, we have turned the hatred toward ourselves.

From the beginning, the threats to our existence have been real and constant and we have needed to employ disciplined force, directed at our declared enemies, against whom we had no choice but to fight. That we are morally and legally justified in using military force is clear. We are not a violent society, but for the sake of our own survival we must defend ourselves to the best of our ability.

Times are changing. We still have enemies outside our borders, but they can no longer threaten us with imminent destruction. A few thousand Hamas or Hizbullah terrorists cannot throw us into the sea. And yet, gradually, we are becoming not less violent but more so. The anger once directed at our external enemies has been turned inward. The curses and slurs heard in the chambers and corridors of the Knesset boggle the mind. I often ask myself how we have come to this point and I can find no clear answer. I think there have been several contributing factors.

Perhaps, now that the external pressures which once united us

have eased, we have begun to forget who we are and from where we've come. Too much has changed too fast. Our values have eroded; respect, restraint, modesty and a willingness to make sacrifices are qualities that are becoming things of our past. The effects can be seen all around us - among our top politicians and ordinary citizens.

How are we to solve this problem? The solution may lie primarily in education, but it is not only in our schools and universities that tolerance and values should be taught. Government and the media need to be educated as well. We must, as a society, relearn the value of civility in our discourse with one another. We must demand a higher standard of behavior and a greater understanding of the basic rights of others from every member of our community: our neighbors and friends, soldiers and leaders, the Orthodox and the non-Orthodox, those on the left and those on the right.

Israel was founded in order to provide a safe and democratic home and haven for the Jewish people - all Jews. We cannot afford to lose sight of our basic values. This threat from within our borders can imperil our continued existence as surely as a threat from without.

'Let's just do what's right'

WHAT SORT of Jewish state were we 20th-century folks entitled to expect in light of the kind of conduct reflected by our ancestors in the reproaches of the Prophets between 25 and 30 centuries ago, and later in the homilies of the talmudic Sages?

This question was posed by a speaker addressing the 300-odd participants in the (Orthodox) Rabbinical Council of America's conference on "The Crisis of Values: The Challenge to Klal Yisrael (the Totality of the Jewish People)" in Jerusalem in July.

The speaker, Rabbi Prof. Shabtai Spero of Jerusalem, might have gone back even further, to Moses' description of us as a "rascally and unwise people" (Deuteronomy 32:6).

Already in the wilderness, on our way from Egyptian bondage to sovereignty in the Promised Land, we gave unpromising indications about our future conduct.

So Spero might have asked the question suggested by William Ewer's verse, "How Odd / Of God / To choose / The Jews": Why did God choose us at all?

The point, of course, is that God didn't choose us because we were Jews. Rather, we became "the Jews" as a result of being chosen - under coercion, according to the Sages (*Shabbat* 88a) - to bear the message of a God/Creator who demands that we repair the imperfect world He created by living lives of spiritual, ethical and moral meaning, creativity and purpose.

As Spero pointed out, we know from the Talmud and from all Jewish literature since that we have not always faithfully carried out our assignment. Indeed, it seems that ever since saying "yes" to God at Mount Sinai, we have been fleeing from Him; that no sooner had we accepted the mission by declaring, "...we will do..." (Exodus 19:8; 24:3, 7) than we began struggling to slough it off.

OTHER SPEAKERS posed questions in a similar vein.

Rabbi Zevulun Lieberman of Brooklyn, for example, asked what had happened to the idealism that had moved the early

A VIEW FROM NOV
MOSHE KOHN

Eretz Yisrael pioneers.

He complained that our courts lean heavily on English and Ottoman law, but hardly resort to the rich body of Jewish law.

And he warned that because of "Israel's centrality" in Jewish life, the "spiritual assimilation" here was more threatening to Jewish continuity than the physical assimilation rampant in the Diaspora.

Spero might have put another question to his Diaspora listeners. In fact, one may ask this question of all Diaspora Jews who are displeased with one aspect or other of our conduct here, especially those who are Orthodox. For them the Return to Zion is not merely a matter of a haven for persecuted Jews or a search for a "better lifestyle," but an article of faith. That multi-faceted question is:

What sort of Israel are you entitled to expect in light of your failure to live among us here sharing, in the most immediate way, our hopes and fears, our fulfillments and disappointments, our pleasures and pains?

What sort of Israel are you entitled to expect in light of your failure to live among us here bringing your influence to bear on the course of minor and major happenings in our day-to-day life, serving on committees, running for office, participating in our demonstrations or counter-demonstrations, writing or telephoning your views to our politicians and news-media editors, voting in our elections?

Prof. Emil Fackenheim of Jerusalem, one of two non-RCA, non-Orthodox speakers (the other was Prof. Eliezer Schweid of Jerusalem), gave the answer: The Jewish people isn't taking the notion of the Return seriously. Not even the Orthodox Zionists.

Let them consider what Israel's social, religious, political, legal etc. culture would be like today if their teachers, their contemporaries and their younger successors and their communities had been coming here through-

out the past century, and in a shibboleth rather than in the mild and slender of rivulets.

The same applies to all you Diaspora Jews who say you would come to live here if only social/political/religious/business etc. affairs were conducted as you think they should be conducted. The best way to have things run your way is to come here in numbers large enough to impose your will on us.

HAIFA'S ASHKENAZI Chief Rabbi She'ar Yashuv Cohen took upon himself and his colleagues responsibility for much of what they - and many non-Orthodox people, too - consider the defects of our ethos and culture.

He said the Orthodox leadership should be creating "tasteful leisure-time activities" that would draw the non-observant public, especially the youth who, "in the existent spiritual and cultural vacuum," are drawn to Arab- and Yarkon Park-style rock concerts.

Prof. Shalom Rosenberg of Jerusalem thought the Israeli Jewish masses have a strong affinity to Jewish tradition, but not those "who determine the tone of the public square," especially the people in the mass media.

He urged the Orthodox leadership to make greater efforts to train people for work in the mass media and other professions where they will be able to influence our cultural tone and level.

He also said that if the Orthodox here wish to have greater influence on the general society, they must deal creatively with ethical issues and such socio-religious issues as the thousands of men refusing to grant their wives a *get* (religious divorce) and the thousands of women who hence are not free to remarry.

Rabbi Prof. Moshe Tendler of Monsey, New York, vigorously seconded Rosenberg's call to the rabbis to speak up.

Concerning the communications media, however, he said: "We have no time to capture the mass media, so let's just do what's right concerning the holy way of life we are mandated to live in Eretz Yisrael, and the media as they will report it."

There is no Israel on Arab maps

EYE ON THE MEDIA

DAVID BAR-ILLAN

WHEN asked to comment on the Arafat tapes, American Consul-General Edward Abington, in Jerusalem (a stateless city between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean, according to the State Department), gives a standard reply: the offensive passages (the calls for jihad, the glorification of terrorist martyrs, the comparison of Oslo to broken peace agreements in Moslem history, the oath to capture Jerusalem, etc.) have been taken out of context. A consulate memo also contains this explanation.

This tired excuse is of course plain silly. The speeches are available in their entirety, and nothing Arafat says dispels the impression that he supports acts of terrorism, lionizes their perpetrators, considers Oslo a temporary, cancellable pact and adheres to the 1974 PLO plan of destroying Israel in phases.

In fact, it is precisely the context in which Arafat's speeches are made which makes them ominous. For they are in tune not only with the PLO covenant and what is euphemistically called the "armed struggle," but with prevailing attitudes throughout the Arab world.

Perhaps most symptomatic of these attitudes is something the media never mention: that no Arab state, including Egypt and Jordan, issues a map containing the name of Israel.

The case of the Egyptian booklet of proposed regional projects distributed at the Casablanca conference - in which all maps of the region omit the name Israel - was never reported by the world press. Nor has a single journalist seen fit to mention, anywhere, that for Arab schoolchildren anywhere outside of Green Line Israel, the State of Israel does not exist on a map.

Arguably the most egregious Arab map is one issued in 1988 by the Arab Studies Society, a research center headed by Arafat's "minister without portfolio" Faisal Husseini. On sale in all Arab bookstores in Jerusalem, it is displayed in Arab schools both in Jerusalem and the territories.

The Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting in America (CAMERA) features an article in its Fall 1995 newsletter which describes the map: "Entitled 'Palestine,' the map designates Israeli towns and cities as 'settlements.' It distinguishes only three Jewish communities beyond the Green Line and erases every Jewish religious site while identifying Moslem and

Christian ones. Heading the maps department at the Arab Studies Society, which publishes the map, is Khalil Tufakji, a Palestinian geographer widely quoted by American journalists as an expert on Palestinian population and territorial issues.

"Although the map claims to represent 'geographical places as they were in 1945 and developments and changes which occurred there since then,' it omits hundreds of Jewish towns and villages. Kfar Saba, a town of 60,000, is identified as an Arab village. Ashdod, a city of 90,000, is omitted altogether. The town of Afula is called an Arab village deserted at the beginning of the 20th century. Tel Aviv is a tiny nameplate dwarfed by a vastly larger Jaffa. There is no Eilat, no Beit Shemesh, and so on.

"Omitting the half million residents of modern Jerusalem, a symbol demarcates only the Old City as Jerusalem, the capital of 'Palestine.' Numerous Christian religious sites are situated nearby, but there is no Jewish presence whatever. This cleansing of Jews from the West Bank, as well as from large areas of Israel inside the Green Line, betrays an alarming continuation of the Arab campaign, despite the peace negotiations, to delegitimize Jewish historical and religious claims in the region.

"Journalistic indifference to the story - no American media outlet covered it - effectively encourages the continuing sale of the map. American journalists who have cited Tufakji on land and building issues without any indication that his assertions might be partisan and questionable are: Barton Gellman, *Washington Post*, June 26, 1995; Elaine Fletcher, *San Francisco Examiner*, June 19, 1995; Amy Dockser Marcus, *Wall Street Journal*, June 6, 1995; Ben Lyndfield, UPI, May 26, 1995; Ethan Bronner, *Boston Globe*, January 30, 1995; Gwen Ackerman, AP, January 16, 1995; Caryl Murphy, *Washington Post*, December 13, 1995; Charles Holmes, *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, May 20, 1994; David Hoffman, *Washington Post*, January 26, 1994; Clyde Haberman, *New York Times*, April 4, 1993.

"Only one journalist, Deborah Horan, of the *San Francisco Chronicle* (March 1995), also included the views of Israeli gen-

inely expert on the topic of legal claims to disputed land. Could she share her rolodex with her colleagues?"

ANOTHER ASHRAWI ODE Adding to the endless string of its anti-Israel propaganda shows, the BBC screened an hour-long program about Hanan Ashrawi earlier this month. The best thing that can be said about the program is that it is an embarrassing, crashing bore, the kind of cult-of-personality exercise which even the Soviets stopped producing in the empire's last days.

If there is any merit in the show, it is that it enables the observant viewer to notice Ashrawi's spacious home and state-of-the-art offices - all under the "Nazi-like Israeli oppression" she and her colleagues so often bewail. Sometimes Ashrawi, whose faith in her audience's gullibility is infinite, also provides comic relief.

This time she did not claim, as she did in Madrid in 1991, that she is a descendant of the first Christians. (Someone must have told her that this means she is Jewish.) Instead, she revealed that her father had served in the "Palestine army."

Now those 200 adoring correspondents who cheered her claim to disciple-ancestry in Madrid will undoubtedly believe that such a thing as a state of Palestine once existed, and that it had an army.

It may be foolish to expect a BBC program to introduce a critical voice into this paean - someone, let us say, who would make the pertinent observation that all her efforts on behalf of human rights have been totally ignored by Chairman Arafat and his despotic regime. Nor should one expect the BBC to introduce the program with the news that Ashrawi has been forced out of the committee on human rights she headed by the Palestinian Authority.

But one does wonder how it is possible for a network with the BBC's exalted reputation to produce one anti-Israel tract after another without even pretending to present a show from Israel's vantage point. Not, heaven forbid, a program favorable to Israel; just one in which voices other than those of Yossi Sarid and Ehud Sprinzak are heard.

On second thought, such a program would constitute a drastic

departure from what has become a hallowed BBC tradition. Last May, the London *Jewish Chronicle* published a report by Simon Rocco on the BBC's refusal to broadcast in Yiddish during the war (though it broadcast in such less-than-mainstream languages as Icelandic and the Luxembourg patois).

"Internal BBC records also show that the Foreign Office had a hand in rejecting the idea of Yiddish and Hebrew broadcasts. Even a plea from the Polish underground for Jewish-language broadcasts fell on deaf ears..."

"Journalist and Zionist activist Lucien Harris lobbied for the use of Yiddish and Hebrew."

"Undeterred by an initial rebuff he wrote again to the BBC's director of European services in September, 1941: 'If they [Jews in the war zone] knew that England was broadcasting in their language, this would at once psychologically strengthen their resistance.'"

"The Foreign Office - wishing to play down any idea of Jewish nationalism - said that using the language would endorse the 'German theory of Jewish nationality.'"

Perhaps this is why the BBC is so reluctant to do a positive program on Israel. It may endorse the German theory of Jewish nationality...

MORAL EQUIVALENCE

Uzi Benziman is one of the more balanced left-wing columnists in the Hebrew daily *Ha'aretz*. But even he can't help lapsing into the kind of analogy which should make the blood of self-respecting Israelis curdle. Commenting (September 15) on a remark by government secretary Shmuel Hollander, who had told Orthodox American rabbis that "the nation's unity is more important than the peace process," Benziman wrote, "Some voice what's in their heart in a Johannesburg mosque, others do it in a Fifth Avenue synagogue."

It takes a very special kind of moral bankruptcy to compare Arafat's call for jihad with a government official's declared preference for national unity over the "peace process." But as in the days of the Comintern, some columnists feel that the world is divided into good guys who follow the party line and bad ones who don't. What makes this particularly ludicrous is that the PLO boss can really affect the fate of the process, while Hollander, an appointed government bureaucrat, is powerless.



Israel is where the New Year really happens

SHABBAT SHALOM

SHLOMO RISKIN

TO a transcontinental traveler who loves to spend the holidays in Israel, Rosh Hashana is probably far down on the list.

But after spending the past 12 Rosh Hashanas here, I am convinced that the differences between a Rosh Hashana in the Diaspora and a Rosh Hashana in Israel are so important that travelers may want to reconsider their priorities. Indeed, only in Israel is it possible to truly experience the Kingship of the Jewish New Year.

The key to understanding Rosh Hashana lies in the essential symbol of the day, the ram's horn (*shofar*).

The *shofar* produces two basic sounds, the long, uninterrupted blast (*tekiya*) and the broken, sighing, sobbing cry (*terua* or *sh'varim*).

The Torah assigns these sounds two specific functions. The Israelites are commanded to make silver trumpets which "...shall be used to assemble the community and to make the camps break camp for their journeys." (Numbers 10:2)

The text goes on to explain that when the trumpets are sounded with a long blast, "...the entire community shall assemble..." (10:3) But when the encampments must get ready to break camp, "...you sound a short series of notes..." (10:5) The instructions are then repeated.

In the context of the *tekiya* sound for assembling the community, the word the Torah chooses for community is *eda*, which literally means "witness." The purpose of a witness is in the testimony he bears. Hence, the *shofar* blast required by the Torah is the *tekiya*, the long uninterrupted sound which signifies clarity, unity, purpose, conviction.

But the short, sobbing sound is called for when breaking camp, which in biblical terms has the connotation of going to war. At such times, the Torah commanded the sound of *terua*. When one's life is in danger, breath quickens, anxiety increases, blood pulses; all

of this is expressed in the shofar's wails. In light of these two different functions of the shofar, the two aspects of Rosh Hashana become clearer.

On one level, Rosh Hashana is the beginning of a new year, a reminder of the transience of existence, of human mortality.

In this sense, Rosh Hashana is like a war, a struggle for survival. We're breaking camp, from Hill 5755 to Hill 5756. We don't know if we'll make it, and if we do, in what condition. The *terua* sound is the cry for life, for existence, an imprecation to be judged worthy of another year.

But there is another aspect to Rosh Hashana, the *tekiya* sound of jubilation and confidence.

A soldier cannot crawl from hill to hill, camp to camp, without eventually asking about the purpose of all this struggling. Why am I fighting this battle to win another year of life? Is it only to sit and protect yet another hill?

Rosh Hashana is not only the Day of Judgment of life and death, of battles and bruises. It is also the Day of Remembrance, and the Festival of Divine Kingship. We wage the battle for life in order to establish the Kingship of God - *malchuyot* - the very heart of Rosh Hashana.

In the Diaspora so much of being Jewish concerns sheer survival, be it the walled-in mentality of keeping the majority culture out at all costs, or the desperation of others who, having embraced that culture with all their hearts and souls, now devote much of their strength to the battle against intermarriage.

If this is what preoccupies world Jewry on Rosh Hashana, it is inevitable that the *terua* sound, becomes the thematic element of the festival.

Israel, on the other hand, is the embodiment of the Kingship of Israel, the first step towards the establishment of the Kingship of God. As a sovereign state, we have the opportunity to serve as witnesses to the world, as a light unto the nations. Here we assume Jewish survival, and dream of Jewish Redemption.

In sum, Rosh Hashana in the Diaspora deals mainly with the *terua* vibrations of existence, the goals of life, health and sustenance; Rosh Hashana in Israel sounds like the *tekiya* blasts, which soar upwards, towards an ultimate Redemption, which is the deepest reason for our being.

Y.L. Peretz tells the tragic and profound story of Bontsche Schweig, Bontsche the Silent, whose life on earth consisted of suffering, shame and persecution, but - since he never spoke out against God or man - he is given a hero's welcome when he arrives at the Garden of Eden. "Your forbearance and piety make you deserving of any reward you desire. Request anything and it shall be granted," declares the Almighty. Bontsche thinks at great length, and finally asks: "Then please, God, provide me each morning with a fresh roll and butter."

The story concludes: the Prosecuting Attorney Angel smiles a mordant smile of triumph; the Defense Attorney Angel hides his face in shame. And God Himself weeps.

Peretz is expressing the tragedy of a world which has robbed the Jew of his historical dreams, his ability to strive for ultimate ideals. Bontsche could have achieved world redemption; he was only capable of grasping for a roll and butter.

On Rosh Hashana, even the best Jews of the Diaspora concentrate on "Bontschik" goals, generally bound up with physical well-being and comforts.

In Israel, we dare reach for Kingship, covenant, fulfillment, Messianic return. May our prayers be granted! Shabbat Shalom

A SUMPTUOUS FEAST!



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Battle of the romantics

CHESS

NICK KOPALOFF

WORLD champion Garry Kasparov started out as the clear favorite to retain his title against Indian challenger Viswanathan Anand in the Professional Chess Association world championships, which opened recently in New York. But the first two games in the 20-match series – played in a sound-proof glass booth on the 107th-floor observation deck of the World Trade Center – ended in draws.

In his last title defense against England's Nigel Short, Kasparov, 32, blew his opponent away with three victories in the first four games. Short never recovered.

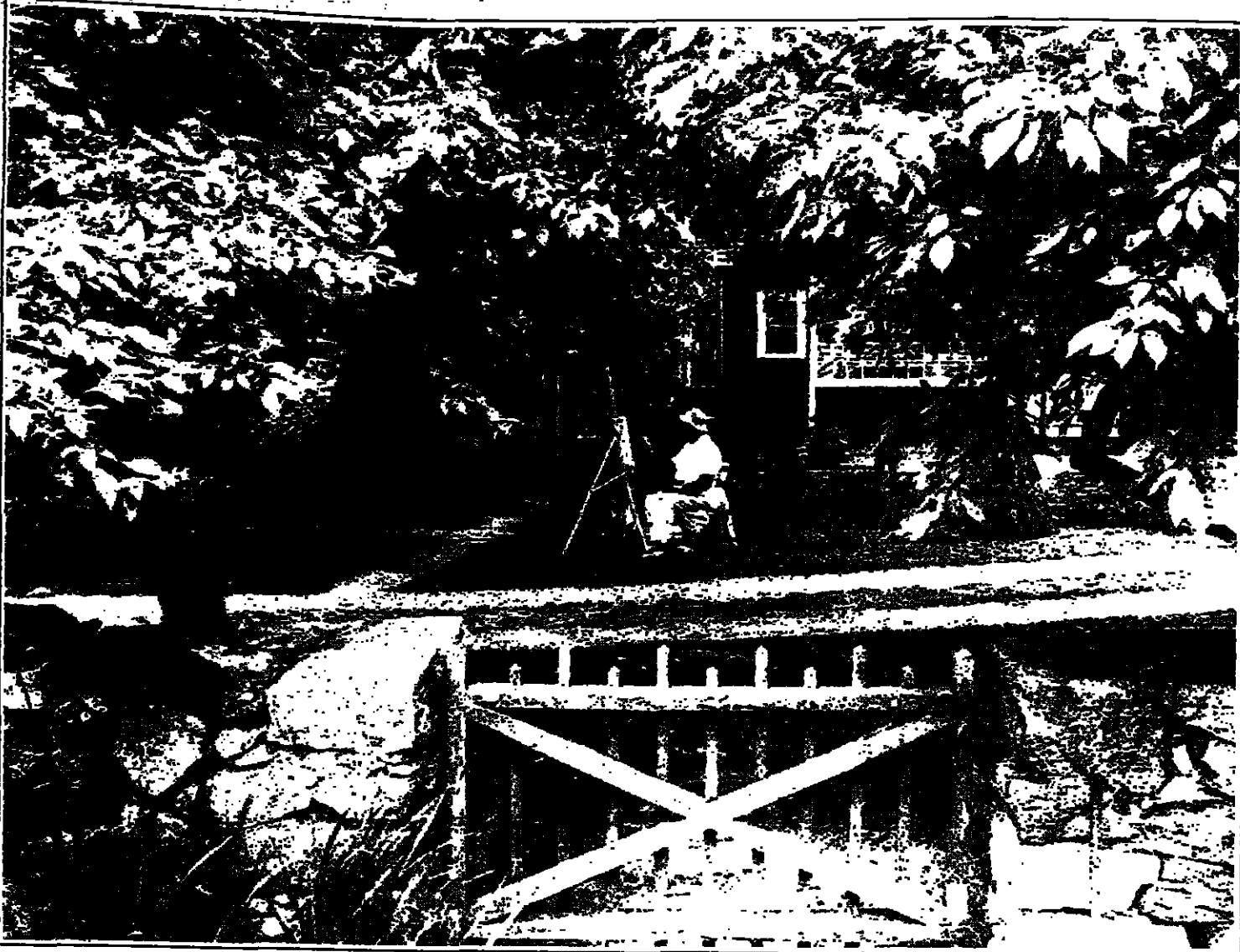
In his second game with the 25-year-old Anand, Kasparov, playing White, tried to surprise his opponent with an unusual opening line, playing 1.d4 instead of his usual 1.e4. The game, which disappointed many observers, moved into a Nimzo-Indian defense and ended in a bland draw after 29 moves.

Analysts believe that the longer Anand can survive, the greater his chances to cause a sensational upset. He would then claim the \$1 million winner's purse and leave Kasparov to collect the \$500,000 prize for the loser.

Kasparov succeeded in defeating the Soviet school of scientific chess by adopting a romantic approach. All-out attacks with hanging pieces and loose pawns are an unmistakable characteristic of his flamboyant style. But in Anand, Kasparov faces another swashbuckling romantic.

An intriguing feature of this encounter is Kasparov's brilliance with the White pieces and Anand's resilience as Black. Over his last two title defenses, Kasparov did not lose a single game with White. Anand is one of the privileged few to have inflicted such a wound on the champion.

Kasparov, Garry – Anand, Viswanathan
Reggio Emilia 1991
French Defense
1.e4 e5 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 c5 4.exd5 Qxd5 5.dxc5 Bxc5 6.Ng3 Nf6 7.Bd3 8-0 8.Qe2 Nbd7 9.Ne4 b6 10.Nxc5 Qxc5 11.Ba3 Qc7 12.Bd4 Bb7 13-0-0 14.Ne5 15.Nd3 16.Nd3 17.Nd3 18.Nd3 19.Nd3 20.Nd3 21.Nd3 22.Nd3 23.Nd3 24.Nd3 25.Nd3 26.Nd3 27.Nd3 28.Nd3 29.Nd3 30.Nd3 31.Nd3 32.Nd3 33.Nd3 34.Nd3 35.Nd3 36.Nd3 37.Nd3 38.Nd3 39.Nd3 40.Nd3 41.Nd3 42.Nd3 43.Nd3 44.Nd3 45.Nd3 46.Nd3 47.Nd3 48.Nd3 49.Nd3 50.Nd3 51.Nd3 52.Nd3 53.Nd3 54.Nd3 55.Nd3 56.Nd3 57.Nd3 58.Nd3 59.Nd3 60.Nd3 61.Nd3 62.Nd3 63.Nd3 64.Nd3 65.Nd3 66.Nd3 67.Nd3 68.Nd3 69.Nd3 70.Nd3 71.Nd3 72.Nd3 73.Nd3 74.Nd3 75.Nd3 76.Nd3 77.Nd3 78.Nd3 79.Nd3 80.Nd3 81.Nd3 82.Nd3 83.Nd3 84.Nd3 85.Nd3 86.Nd3 87.Nd3 88.Nd3 89.Nd3 90.Nd3 91.Nd3 92.Nd3 93.Nd3 94.Nd3 95.Nd3 96.Nd3 97.Nd3 98.Nd3 99.Nd3 100.Nd3 101.Nd3 102.Nd3 103.Nd3 104.Nd3 105.Nd3 106.Nd3 107.Nd3 108.Nd3 109.Nd3 110.Nd3 111.Nd3 112.Nd3 113.Nd3 114.Nd3 115.Nd3 116.Nd3 117.Nd3 118.Nd3 119.Nd3 120.Nd3 121.Nd3 122.Nd3 123.Nd3 124.Nd3 125.Nd3 126.Nd3 127.Nd3 128.Nd3 129.Nd3 130.Nd3 131.Nd3 132.Nd3 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An artist paints a pastoral scene at the entrance of the Weir Farm in Wilton, Connecticut. (Hartford Courant/Tim Rasmussen)

An era recaptured in New England

THE fairy-tale Land of Nod was said to be a soothing place of pleasant dreams. The same holds for the real-life Land of Nod - Weir Farm, the Nod Hill retreat that has inspired generations of artists.

High on a ridge, Weir Farm is quintessential New England, an unspoiled arcadia looking just as it did a century ago: a few red clapboard farmhouses and sagging barns surrounded by meadows swaying with rye grass, and bounded by stone walls and soaring maple trees.

On these sylvan acres, J. Alden Weir celebrated the intimate landscapes and simple pleasures of life with hundreds of paintings and drawings that made him an icon of American impressionism.

That style of painting, which flourished around the turn of the century, was a distinctly New World version of the painting style made famous by French artists such as Monet, Manet and Degas.

Impressionism flourished with special zeal in Connecticut, where dozens of artists painted scenes ranging from farm gardens in Simsbury and meadows in East Hartford to factories in Willimantic and shoreline scenes in Noank.

Though they painted throughout the state, the painters who made Connecticut their canvas congregated in art colonies in the Cos Cob section of Greenwich and in Old Lyme, and many visited Weir at his farmstead in the Branchville section of Ridgefield; it is now a National Historic Site administered by the National Park Service.

Today, the Connecticut Impressionist Art Trail, inaugurated in June, links sites where the work of American impressionists are displayed, along with sites where many of them worked.

Weir Farm - one of very few places in the country where the home and studio of a major artist is maintained intact along with the landscapes that were integral to his work - provides the most sweeping sense of that artistic era.

Today, painters Sperry and Doris Andrews live in Weir's old house, and the grounds continue to attract artists. Under the shade of a holly tree, Ed Kruecki Jr. recently sketched a field of grass bounded by stone walls, ash and maples. The Ridgefield artist says he comes about twice a week to contemplate the ever-changing landscape and to make charcoal sketches.

AMERICAN impressionists celebrated their native landscapes in an intimate form, and in way different from French impressionism. American painters sought to capture the mood of a landscape rather than the fleeting play of light.

Weir was one of the first Americans to paint this way, although his first view of impressionist painting (in a Paris gallery) left him with a headache.

But by the late 1880s, Weir determined to develop his own vision as an artist and was painting with bold, sure-handed strokes and unmixed pigments, in a style critics called impressionistic.

Much of his work was done at the farm in Branchville. He got the farm as part of a trade with art collector Erwin Davis, who dearly wanted to own a painting Weir had purchased.

Though he never intended to live there, Weir found himself drawn to the humble farm and its quiet landscapes. It soon became his retreat from the hurly-burly of Manhattan, and it later became his home.

Here you can compare the living landscapes with those depicted by Weir, Childe Hassam and others.

Today's scenes, in general, differ only because of the many mature trees now presiding over formerly cleared meadows.

Back before those trees were even seedlings, friends came to visit and to paint with Weir on the farm, most notably John Henry Twachtman, John Singer Sargent and the peripatetic Hassam.

Twachtman soon bought his

own place in nearby Greenwich and, like Weir, found inspiration aplenty on his own property. The old farmhouse and its brooks and waterfalls made their way onto many a canvas.

The 30 Round Hill Road home is now privately owned. (It once belonged to muppeteer Jim Henson.)

Twachtman emerged from his idyll to teach, and before long an art colony brought new color to the shores of an old fishing and shipping village in Cos Cob, now part of Greenwich.

Artists boarded and painted at the Holley House, now known as the Bush-Holley House Museum. (The namesake farmer, David Bush, is no relation to former president George Bush, whose family lived in Greenwich.)

It is a 1732 saltbox adorned with beautiful porches and fronted by abundant lilacs that kept painters busy with scenes of nature and domesticity. The nearby harbor and its shipyards also attracted the attention of painters.

TODAY THE rustic boat yards are gone. The sleek masts of pleasure craft moored at the Riverside Yacht Club now rise nearby, and Interstate Highway 95 soars overhead, with the Mianus River Bridge spanning Strickland Brook in front of the house.

The house was slated to be destroyed to make way for I-95 but was saved by the Greenwich Historical Society, which set about restoring the home to its 18th century appearance. Back then, in the '50s, the impressionist era - which peaked from roughly 1890 to about 1915, though it remains a popular style for some American artists - seemed too recent to be of historic significance.

But as the impressionist era became more important, the historical society decided to reinterpret the house as part of Greenwich's 350th-anniversary celebration. The move to reinterpret gained additional impetus when the home was awarded National Historic Landmark status in 1991.

Most of the local landmarks

Painted by the impressionists are gone, though the old neighborhood lives on in some of the paintings hanging in the Bush-Holley House Museum. But the many lilac bushes still bloom in May, and the upper porch that was part of another tableau painted by Hassam and others still offers a fine vantage point of the local surroundings.

But it wasn't long before the art scene moved on. Old Lyme became the next "in" place, and impressionist artists congregated at Florence Griswold's home, a Greek temple of a place that became a boarding house and art colony.

The house is now the Florence Griswold Museum, preserving works by American impressionists and the restored (and relocated) studio of painter William Chadwick.

The house and Old Lyme had been discovered by artists before impressionism made much of an impact. Henry Ward Ranger found the town while searching for a place that had the meditative aspect of the French forest of Fontainebleau and the effusive, hazy light of the Dutch Lowlands. He also found the chance to begin an art colony of his own.

And that's just what he had until 1903, when Hassam happened by, bringing with him the vision of an impressionist. Soon the efforts of the art colony turned to impressionism. It wasn't long before the Griswold house, and the fields, marshes and gardens surrounding it, became the Giverny of Connecticut.

Painters left their mark on the Griswold house in a unique way: those who were accepted as part of the colony's artistic fraternity were invited to paint one or more of the panels in the house's dining room. The room is today a distinctive catalog of their work.

(Los Angeles Times)

Herod's city breathes again

SEE IT HERE

HAIM SHAPIRO

A new view of the magnificence of Herodian Jerusalem will be on display for visitors during Succot. It is part of a series of tours planned in conjunction with the Jerusalem 3000 celebrations.

The tours, organized by the Archaeological Center in conjunction with the Society for the Preservation of Nature in Israel, include the Western Wall excavations, the City of David and Hezekiah's Tunnel.

For the first time, visitors can have a look at the excavations west of the road going through the Dung Gate. Here one can see a Mameluke/Crusader house and garden, a Roman cardo, and the drainage system that served the area in this period.

Most impressive in this area is an Omayyad gate - the Gate of the Leatherworkers - which has been reopened. Mikl Waisman, director of the Archaeological Center, says that the gate is to serve as a pedestrian passageway.

However, all this pales in comparison with the continued uncovering of monumental remains adjacent to the southern end of the Western Wall in the excavation directed by Dr. Ronnie Reich and Ya'akov Billig. Here one can see the broad paving stones of a Herodian street which passed alongside the Temple complex. The street, Waisman

says, runs above a complex drainage system, cut into the rock, with tunnels 1.5 meters wide and four meters deep. Along the street, facing the Temple complex, are a series of shops, apparently built to serve the pilgrims.

Above, one can see the remains of Robinson's Arch, which supported a stairway going up to the Temple; below, one can see that much of the Herodian construction has fallen, remaining where it landed since the fall of Jerusalem in 70 CE. In fact, Waisman relates, the archaeologists found a layer of dirt and debris, about five centimeters thick, between the street and the fallen stones. This debris, he says, is evidence of the deterioration of services just prior to the destruction. Normally, he notes, a street such as this would have been swept daily.

Nearby, an Omayyad palace is being reconstructed, using the same Herodian building blocks which the Omayyads used for their construction. As one walks through the excavations, one can see stones with Jewish symbols and the base of a column used to construct a wall.

Crossing through the wall of

the Old City, one comes upon the monumental splendor of the Hulda Gate to the Temple Mount. It was here that the priests entered the Temple complex.

Further on, one comes to a vantage point with a view of Absalom's Pillar - the so-called tomb of Absalom, the son of David - which scholars believe is the resting place of a wealthy Hellenistic Jewish family. To the south stretches the Ophel and the City of David, where archaeologists have uncovered homes and walls from the First Temple period.

The tours of the area are to be from October 10 to October 13, beginning at the Dung Gate. There are to be tours at 10, 12:30 and 3, with the 12:30 tour going to Hezekiah's Tunnel and the City of David. At 3, visitors are assured of a tour in English, but Waisman added that several of the guides speak English and if there is a large group of English-speakers a tour in English can be arranged for them at other times.

Although everyone who shows up at the given times is assured of a tour, Waisman said it would be a good idea for large groups to call in advance (tel. 02-292611/22). The tour costs NIS 25, with discounts for SPNI members and a special price of NIS 60 for a family with two adults and up to three children.

Succot in Kusadasi

TRAVEL TIPS

HAIM SHAPIRO

AS of press time, some Succot packages were still available. A seven-night Succot package in Kusadasi, Turkey, is being marketed by Yossi Tours from \$397, including airfare and hotel with breakfast.

JET LINE is offering a week in Rhodes from \$456, including airfare and hotel with breakfast. They also have weeklong packages to Santorini from \$410 and to Crete from \$458.

ARKIA is offering two Succot trips to North America. One, a 16-day tour of New York, Miami and the Caribbean, is \$2,167, while the other, a 16-day tour of New York, Orlando, Miami and the Bahamas is \$2,070.

SUCCOT PRICES at the Paradise Vacation Village on Lake Kinneret are NIS 360 for a couple per night, including breakfast. The holiday prices per couple at the chain's other hotels are Eilat, NIS 440, the Dead Sea, NIS 538, and Jerusalem and Tiberias, NIS 488. All prices include VAT.

JEEP TOURS in the surrounding Mediterranean area, in Turkey, Greece, Crete and Cyprus, are being organized by Geographical Tours-Neot Hakikar. The tours, which take advantage of the four-wheel-drive vehicles' ability to drive on rough terrain, each include 20 to 30 participants, with about 10 vehicles. Participants include jeep owners, who take their vehicles by boat, and those who rent jeeps at the destination. Additional tours are planned for Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia. The price for a week's tour of Cyprus, including the cost of renting a jeep, is between \$600 and \$1,000, depending on the level of accommodations.

AUSTRIAN AIRLINES is giving employees of the large hotel chains a discount of 50 percent on all destinations in Europe for departures from November 7

through December 15.

A RECENT IATA survey of passengers listed Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport as the best in the world, regarding such services as restaurants, shops, baggage service and waiting facilities. The runners up were Orlando, Calgary, Munich, Montreal, Edmonton, Cincinnati, Houston, Atlanta, and London's Gatwick Airport.

EL AL has a variety of round-the-world tickets, which it is selling together with Cathay Pacific, Qantas and Korean Air. The ticket with Cathay Pacific is \$2,246 for tourist class only and valid for six months; that with Qantas is \$2,730 tourist and

\$4,150 business class, and valid for a year; while that with Korean Air is \$2,246, tourist class only, and valid for six months.

THE MORIAH Plaza at the Dead Sea is wheelchair accessible, according to the management, which says that there are special rooms and elevators for wheelchairs, as well as special facilities at the swimming pool.

WORLD AIRWAYS is now flying to Miami, with passengers going through customs in New York and a wait of about two hours in each direction between the Tel Aviv-New York flight and the New York-Miami flight. The price of the Miami connection is \$109 in each direction.

Note: All prices are per person based on double occupancy unless otherwise indicated.



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When in Rome, celebrate 2000

ALMOST \$80 billion will be spent preparing Rome for celebrations marking the year 2000, according to the Jubilee Agency, representing local authorities and the Chamber of Commerce.

The celebrations of the 2,000th birthday of Jesus and those marking a Holy Year, or a period of remission from sin granted every 25 years, are expected to attract an extra 40 million Roman Catholic pilgrims and tourists.

Projects include the \$25.6 million restoration of the Colosseum, a Tiber underpass and an underground car park near the Vatican.

The agency has earmarked \$48b. to improve the city's deficient transport system.

Included is a \$640m. project to build two tracks of Linea C, a new metro line, with the first joining the area of the St. John Lateran Basilica and St. Peter's by burrowing through Rome's archeologically rich center. The second will run from St. John's to the city's ring road, the Raccordo Anulare.

There are also plans to make the silted Tiber navigable, widen the airport motorway and ring

road, and build a concert auditorium. Fifty churches will be built. Despite private funding offered four years ago by the Banca di Roma, restoration work on the Colosseum will only be go ahead now after many delays.

It is expected to take four years.

Originally meant to feature in another series of projects to clean up the city, restoration of the filthy monument built in 75 to 80 CE is set to begin in weeks.

When finished, its marble will gleam, the cracks suffered in various earthquakes will be repaired, and a wooden arena floor like the

original will be in place.

Pavements outside will be removed and replaced with ones in marble designs, after first digging the surrounding ground level down to where it was 2,000 years ago and exposing ruins of older buildings near the monument.

But the greatest challenge facing restorers is a confluence of streams below the Colosseum's foundations, which originally formed a natural lake there and which the Emperor Nero used to make the *stagna*, or swimming pool, of his palace, the Domus Aurea.

(The Daily Telegraph)

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Arafat gets the prod from all sides

THE WEEK THAT WAS

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

NATIONAL Religious Party Chairman Zevulun Hammer was extremely miffed at the Likud's cool response this week to his proposal to organize a national referendum on Oslo 2. All the more so, it is rumored, because he has already amassed most of the \$2 million of the estimated cost of the project from Jewish diamond merchants abroad.

But most of all Hammer was infuriated by the premature leaking of his proposal to the media before he had completed the preparations.

The leak, like most leaks, was not accidental. The question is - was the leak fair-enough political warfare from the government side, or stab-in-the-back sabotage from the opposition side, to which Hammer was trying to sell the referendum idea?

Political pundits merely credit something they call "political intelligence" for their information. But they say the leakers realized it could serve as a convenient prod for Arafat, impressing on him that such a referendum may do him and the agreement no good at all. In other words, hurry up Yasser and dig Oslo 2 out of the Taba sand.

The pundits brushed away a mock tear. How sad it would be for the NRP if its bright idea, intended to block the peace process, was used to speed it up.

NO. 2 PROD

The whisper in Labor corridors is that the idea to reserve Foreign Minister Shimon Peres's No. 2 slot on the party Knesset list was hatched as a trick on Arafat.

The PLO leader was meant to read the signal as "pull your socks up and settle the deal with Rabin and Peres, before the two declare all-out war on one another and split Labor apart in vicious primaries."

Should this happen, Arafat can kiss the Oslo agreement goodbye. Bad for Labor is bad for Arafat. Any delay now can only weaken his already feeble grip on authority and lead to increased terrorist activity.

How do party sources know that the move was for external consumption - not to be taken internally?

Elementary. The purpose of the double act is to convey the illusion of a wonderful friendship. It's supposed to look like a flawless two-step. A pie in the face is not in the script.

At a recent meeting with political reporters, Rabin had nothing but good things to say about his dear buddy Shimon. Anyone familiar with the bloody battles of the past can only be amazed by the present harmony.

Rabin and Peres are equally anxious to get Oslo 2 signed before the election year. That is due to begin in October - right after the High Holy Days.

Anything not settled before the holidays will start spilling over into the primaries. Rabin and Peres need to put as much distance as possible between the signing and the election starting line.

RAMON, CONTINUED

Another painful and unresolved matter of concern is Haim Ramon, whose future plans con-



Hammer ruffled: 'Political intelligence' leaked his plans before he was ready to reveal them himself. (Roni Ne'eman)

tinued to be a mystery to Labor leaders.

In a rather transparent ploy, Labor sent Ramon a letter which innocently asked him to sign the renewal of his bank standing order for his party fee, which would ensure he would be a party member at primary time.

The party had unilaterally stopped Ramon's membership fees when the maverick MK was expelled. His signature is required to renew them.

Somewhat prematurely - as the letter went out - Labor sources made certain their media contacts were tipped that "Ramon has renewed his party membership."

Funny thing. Ramon was vacationing in faraway China and hadn't yet seen the letter. But cackles heard on the Great Wall of China suggest he's certainly heard all about it now.

Now no one knows if he has any intention of signing it, especially since he knows what a cloud of speculation will swirl around it.

More seriously, not even his closest Labor buddies have any idea whether Ramon will return to Labor - the option still seen as most likely - or field his own team for the elections.

Another answer eluding the "gang of eight" - Ramon's supporters in Labor's Knesset faction - is what senior cabinet position has Rabin reportedly promised Ramon to lure him back.

Some now say the job of election campaign chief would be inappropriate, given that Ramon



Yasser Arafat seems to be the subject of all kinds of tricks. (David Rubinger)

would have to sell the country a party he walked out on and whose apparatus he so recently and venomously attacked.

Information minister in charge of explaining government policy has been mooted, or a post on senior campaign staff.

But this speculation remains Chinese ping-pong as long as Ramon remains inscrutable.

Ramon certainly has a busy schedule - stringing Labor along, spinning political webs, vacationing in China. Did anyone mention the arduous task of being chairman of the Histadrut? Probably not.

So when will all become clear? Why, like everything else in the country, after the holidays, of course.

Lea Rabin puts the Japanese connection first

GRAPEVINE

GREER FAY CASHMAN



High power prof: Ruth Arnon got to schmooze with First Lady Hillary Clinton.

LEA RABIN obviously prefers the Japanese Connection to the French Connection," quipped Shekhem managing director Amnon Dick at the fashion show celebrating the unveiling of The French Connection - for which Shekhem has the exclusive import rights. Proceeds from the event at the Dan Panorama went to Alut (The Israel Association for Autism), of which Rabin is the founding president. Affairs of state, however, sometimes take precedence over affairs of the heart. Much as Rabin is devoted to Alut, she is more devoted to the prime minister, and stayed at his side at the state dinner for Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Maruyama.

WHILE THE Japanese premier, in the course of his visit, was announcing additional generous support for the Palestinian Authority, his daughter Yuri Nakahara, who is also his secretary, was bringing equally good news to the Hebrew University, where she pledged that the Japanese government would provide substantial financial backing for an international conference to be held late next year. The offer is hardly surprising considering that the theme is "Japan as an Economic Model for the Middle East." Experts from Japan as well as neighboring Arab countries will be invited to attend. Nakahara came to the university bearing more than promises. The university's department of East Asian studies was the recipient of a computer and printer complete with a Japanese word-processing program, as well as microfilms from the files of Japan's prestigious *Asahi Shimbun* newspaper.

Nakahara was rewarded with a warm greeting in Japanese by Prof. Ben-Ami Shiklony, an internationally known Japanese scholar. Israel's interest and growing involvement with Japan is reflected in the decision by hundreds of students each year to study Japanese language and culture at HU.

GIVEN THE meager salary of NIS 1,600 per month, the employment as a parliamentary aide and political adviser of Hiski Zissman, a 25-year-old political science student, should not excite any attention. Except that in Zissman's case his boss happens to be Labor MK Emmanuel Zissman, whose leanings toward The Third Way have in recent months kept him in the media limelight. Denying nepotism, Zissman senior points out that the job is of a temporary nature and that his son has the best qualifications. There have been previous cases of MKs bringing offspring to work as aides, and the practice exists in other countries as well - witness the Japanese prime minister.

CHANNEL ZAPPING is pre-

from the author himself.

THE MOST prevalent language at the Israel Museum on Tuesday evening was German. Some 80 of the guests attending a reception hosted by German Ambassador Franz Bertele and his wife Doris - in honor of the opening of an exhibition of works by German contemporary artist and Wolf Prize winner Gerhard Richter - were major collectors from Germany. They included Burda publisher Frieder Burda, a staunch supporter of the Israel Museum, and Frieda Springer, widow of publishing tycoon Axel Springer, whose warm feelings toward Israel were legendary. The exhibition coincides with the 10th anniversary of Springer's death. Most of the Germans present were members of the German Friends of the Israel Museum, which was founded by Vicki Merz when her late husband Yohanan Merz was Israel's ambassador to Germany. Also taking credit for some of the success of the venture was Chucky Zarou, veteran spokesman for Lufthansa in Israel. Lufthansa brought the exhibition to Israel free of charge. It is the fourth exhibition it has flown here gratis in five years. Among the local guests at the well-catered affair were actor Shmuel Segal, Prof. Yehuda Blum from the Hebrew University's law faculty, former Bar Association head Ya'acov Rubin, AMCHA founding president Manfred Klafner, and well-known realtor Werner Lorval, whose wife Pamela, an avid Scrabble player, kept looking at her watch to make sure she wouldn't be late to the weekly meeting of the Jerusalem Scrabble Club.

AMCHA DIRECTOR John Lemberger says that his organization has found three Holocaust survivors in Israel who can definitely lay claim to funds deposited by Jews in Swiss banks before and during World War II.

And on an entirely different issue Lemberger met this week with Rwandan Ambassador Zae Nsenga, whose government is interested in emulating AMCHA's success with trauma victims. AMCHA, which has gained an international reputation in dealing with victims of war-related psychological syndromes, has also been working in Croatia, as part of UNICEF's psycho-social assistance program.

FIRST LADY meets first lady. Prof. Ruth Arnon, the Weizmann Institute's vice president for international scientific relations, on Sunday met America's first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton at the annual dinner of the Chicago Committee for the Weizmann Institute.

Arnon, the first woman to be elected to the sciences section of the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities, is a codeveloper with Weizmann Institute colleagues Prof. Michael Sela and Dr. Dvora Teitelbaum of copolymer-1, a new medication for multiple sclerosis that is currently awaiting approval by the US Food and Drug Administration.

Arnon, who has a string of firsts to her credit, is inter alia the first woman to serve as a Weizmann Institute vice president. Dare we hope that her next first will be as the first woman president of that august institution?

FREQUENT commuters between Canada and Israel, philanthropists Charles and Andy Broumans were in Jerusalem last week to attend a dinner honoring her late mother Doris Morrison, a founding member of the Friends of Yad Sarah. Held at the home of Prof. and Mrs. Kahan Mann, the dinner spearheaded a round of fundraising events by the English-speaking Friends of Yad Sarah for the purchase of a minibus in Doris Morrison's memory.

Meanwhile the Broumans enthusiastically examined an existing Yad Sarah minibus specially designed for the transport of the disabled.

CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA JERUSALEM

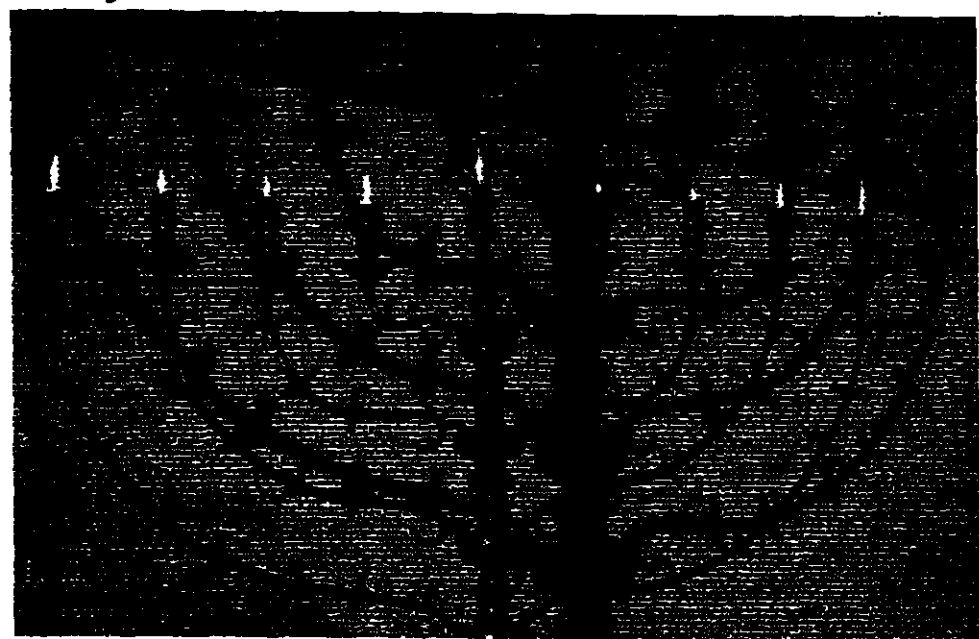
The Nonimmigrant Visa Section of the United States Consulate General in Jerusalem will close to the public on September 29, 1995 for renovations which will entail dismantling all visa issuing equipment. The Section will reopen for services on October 10, 1995. No Nonimmigrant visas will be issued during this period. Those traveling to the United States for emergency medical treatment may apply at the United States Embassy in Tel Aviv.

Applicants who are willing to leave their passports at the Consulate and who do not intend to depart for the United States before October 16 may present their passports and applications from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m., October 2 to October 6. These passports may be picked up at the Consulate between 2:30 and 4:00 p.m. after October 16. No passports will be ready for pickup before October 16.

From September 29 to October 10, processing of immigrant visa cases will be by appointment only. Procedures for the filing of Immigrant Visa Petitions on Tuesdays from 8:30 to 12:00 remain unchanged.

STUDY TOUR

THE JEWS OF MORAVIA AND BOHEMIA



Join Professor Yom Tov Assis of the Hebrew University's Dept. of the History of the Jewish People on a unique English-speaking tour of Prague, Brno, Ceske Budejovice and many lovely medieval villages in the Czech Republic. Organized by Jewish Heritage Study Trips and The Jerusalem Post Travel Club, there will be daily lectures on Jewish religious, social, political and economic life, with in-depth tours of the Jewish quarters and other places of interest, and a visit to the Theresienstadt Ghetto.

This specialized study tour is limited in number and designed for those who are especially interested. There will be no touring on Shabbat, which will be spent in Prague within walking distance of a synagogue.

The dates: Tuesday, October 17 - Friday, October 27.

The price: US\$ 2,199 per person sharing a double room, includes flight, all touring, lectures and entrances, daily buffet breakfast and kosher meals on Shabbat. Local English speaking guide and escort from Israel. Insurance and visas extra.

Full details from: ZIONTOURS Ltd. (Ask for Debbie), 23 Rehov Hillel, Jerusalem. Jo-Anne Greenblatt 02-342079, Debbie Zuberi 02-345191 Fax: 02-255329

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May all those who respond to this appeal be blessed with all spiritual and worldly blessings by the source of all blessings and with a Shema Tova.

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- * Rabbi Levy Yitzhak Halperin, Head of the Institute for Science and Halacha, 14/c Geshet Hahaim, Jerusalem.
- * Rabbi Zalman Nehemiah Goldberg, Head of the Rabbinic Court, 12a Elkanah, Jerusalem.
- * Prof. Binyamin Ze'ev Fraenkel, Hebrew University, Physics Department, 26 Hapalmah, Jerusalem.
- * Prof. Ze'ev Low, Hebrew University, Physics Department, 5 Haplega, Jerusalem.
- * Prof. Yehuda Levy, Jerusalem College of Technology, 46 Bayit Vegan, Jerusalem.

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While we make every effort to correct such errors, we must ask our readers' indulgence for those occasions when this is not possible.

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SHARON AREA

DWELLINGS

Boston wins AL East Division title

BOSTON (AP) — The Boston Red Sox clinched their first AL East title since 1990 Wednesday night as Jose Canseco's broken-bat single in the seventh inning drove in the go-ahead run in a 3-2 win over the Milwaukee Brewers.

Canseco trotted down the first-base line with his bat handle in his hand as the hard grounder rolled into left field, scoring Luis Allica. As Mo Vaughn reached second, he pumped his fist.

The Red Sox have held first place by themselves since May 13 and built a 16-game lead August 28. But they've had trouble locking up the division. They went 3-7 on a recent road trip.

The last two times Boston won the AL East title, in 1988 and 1990, it was swept by Oakland in the AL championship series.

Rheal Cormier (7-5) pitched two perfect innings in relief of

Erik Hanson, who worked five hitless innings but left the game after the sixth in which he was hit on the right leg with a liner. Rick Aguilera pitched the ninth for his 31st save.

Yankees 2, Blue Jays 1
Sterling Hitchcock pitched a six-hitter in his final scheduled start of the season, keeping host New York near the top of the wild-card standings with a win over Toronto.

WILD CARD GLANCE

AMERICAN LEAGUE	W	L	Pct.	GB
Seattle	71	63	.530	—
California	72	63	.533	—
New York	71	64	.526	1
Kansas City	68	66	.507	3.5
Texas	68	66	.507	3.5
Oakland	67	68	.498	5

NATIONAL LEAGUE	W	L	Pct.	GB
Los Angeles	71	63	.530	—
Houston	70	64	.522	1
Philadelphia	68	66	.498	3.5
Chicago	68	66	.498	3.5
San Diego	65	68	.489	5.5

WEDNESDAY'S AL RESULTS:
Baltimore 6, Detroit 3
Oakland 9, California 6
Boston 3, Milwaukee 2
New York 2, Toronto 1
Chicago 4, Cleveland 3
Seattle 11, Texas 3
Minnesota 5, Kansas City 4 (12)

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
Boston	81	59	.576	—
New York	71	64	.526	10.5
Baltimore	63	72	.466	18.5
Detroit	57	77	.425	24
Toronto	54	81	.400	27.5

Central Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
Cleveland	63	62	.508	—
Kansas City	63	71	.470	23.5
Minnesota	61	72	.459	31
Chicago	51	82	.383	41

West Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
California	72	63	.533	—
Seattle	72	63	.533	—
Texas	68	66	.498	5
Oakland	67	68	.498	5

*clinched division title.

WEDNESDAY'S NL RESULTS:
Cincinnati 5, Montreal 2
Florida 2, Philadelphia 1
St. Louis 9, Pittsburgh 3
New York 3, Atlanta 4
Houston 4, Chicago 6
Colorado 10, San Diego 2
Los Angeles 4, San Francisco 2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
Atlanta	65	59	.530	—
Philadelphia	68	66	.498	19
New York	63	71	.470	21.5
Montreal	62	72	.463	22.5
Florida	61	72	.459	23

Central Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
Chicago	60	54	.520	—
St. Louis	70	64	.520	10
Cincinnati	65	68	.488	14.5
Pittsburgh	55	79	.410	26

West Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
Colorado	72	61	.541	—
Los Angeles	71	63	.530	1.5
San Diego	65	68	.488	7.5
San Francisco	63	70	.474	9

*clinched division title.

Pirates owner: Abandon ship

PITTSBURGH (AP) — The Pittsburgh Pirates are leaving town for a road trip unlike any other in the club's 109-season history.

Nobody knows if they're coming back.

Debt-laden and desperate for new owners, the Pirates played their final home game of the season by losing to St. Louis 9-3 Wednesday night. What the fans don't know is if, in addition to the game, they also lost their team.

"I think this is the last game, I do," said Laurel Mundorff of Forest Hills. "I'm not a baseball fan, but I think it would be bad for the city to lose the Pirates. It would be bad for the economy, and the spirit of the city."

Some of the 11,190 fans bought extra scorecards or, seeking a valuable souvenir if the club leaves, extra tickets. Others hung signs urging the team to stay: "Pittsburgh Pirates — Forever," and "Mr. Sami, Don't Sell Our Team Away," a reference to Pirates chairman Vincent Sami.

In the ninth inning, the fans stood to cheer and chant, and it seemed, to plead for the Pirates to stay. Some stayed for 10 min-

utes afterward in an impromptu and unscripted show of support.

The Pirates' status for 1996 could be settled by today, the deadline for Kevin McClatchy, 32, the heir to a California-based newspaper chain, to make an acceptable offer to the 10 current Pirates' owners.

The owners want at least \$85 million for a last-place team that, wracked by player departures and a devastating 7½-month players strike, may lose \$20 million this season. The team already is \$60 million in debt.

McClatchy has been upbeat, but apparently has not yet secured enough investors to satisfy the owners. He has lined up backers that include race car owner Chip Ganassi and Miami Dolphins star Dan Marino.

If McClatchy's bid is rejected, the owners will likely turn to out-of-town groups who could relocate the club, probably to Washington, DC.

"I'm always the last optimist, and I think we'll stay here and a new owner will put money into the club and we'll build it back up," Pirates manager Jim Ley-

land said. But even as Leyland spoke, a persistent rain dripped on a three-fourths empty Three Rivers Stadium, further dampening the fans' spirits and hopes.

Many in Pittsburgh, turned off by baseball's economic turmoil, forget how much excitement, energy and money the Pirates pumped into the city during their 1990-92 NL East Division championship seasons, Pirates marketing vice president Steve Greenberg said.

The Pirates sold nearly 5 million tickets in 1990 and 1991, or more than one ticket for every resident in the five counties surrounding Pittsburgh.

Even President Clinton got into the Pittsburgh-can't-lose-the-Pirates act, telling WTAE-TV in a satellite-beamed interview that he can't imagine the club playing anywhere else — not even Washington.

"It would be a disaster not to have baseball in Pittsburgh," Leyland said. "I just don't think it's possible there could not be the Pittsburgh Pirates. It just can't be."

NABLUS

(Continued from Page 1)
Border policemen briefly arrested five Palestinian photographers who tried to cover the protests. They were Khaled Zigari, who works for Reuters and The Jerusalem Post; Majed Arouri, of AP; Hassan Teti, Reuters; Abdel-Raham Habith, WTN; and Aref Tayaha, ABC. Zigari said policemen threatened to smash his camera.

Palestinian journalists carrying

Israeli government press cards were also kept away by police from the Machpela Cave in Hebron on Wednesday during the visit there of President Ezer Weizman, who apologized afterwards for their treatment.

The journalists announced in the Al-Quds daily they were establishing a committee to look after the interests of Palestinian journalists with Israeli press credentials.

TABA

(Continued from Page 1)
period, but Israel has insisted that the fate of settlements be discussed in future talks.

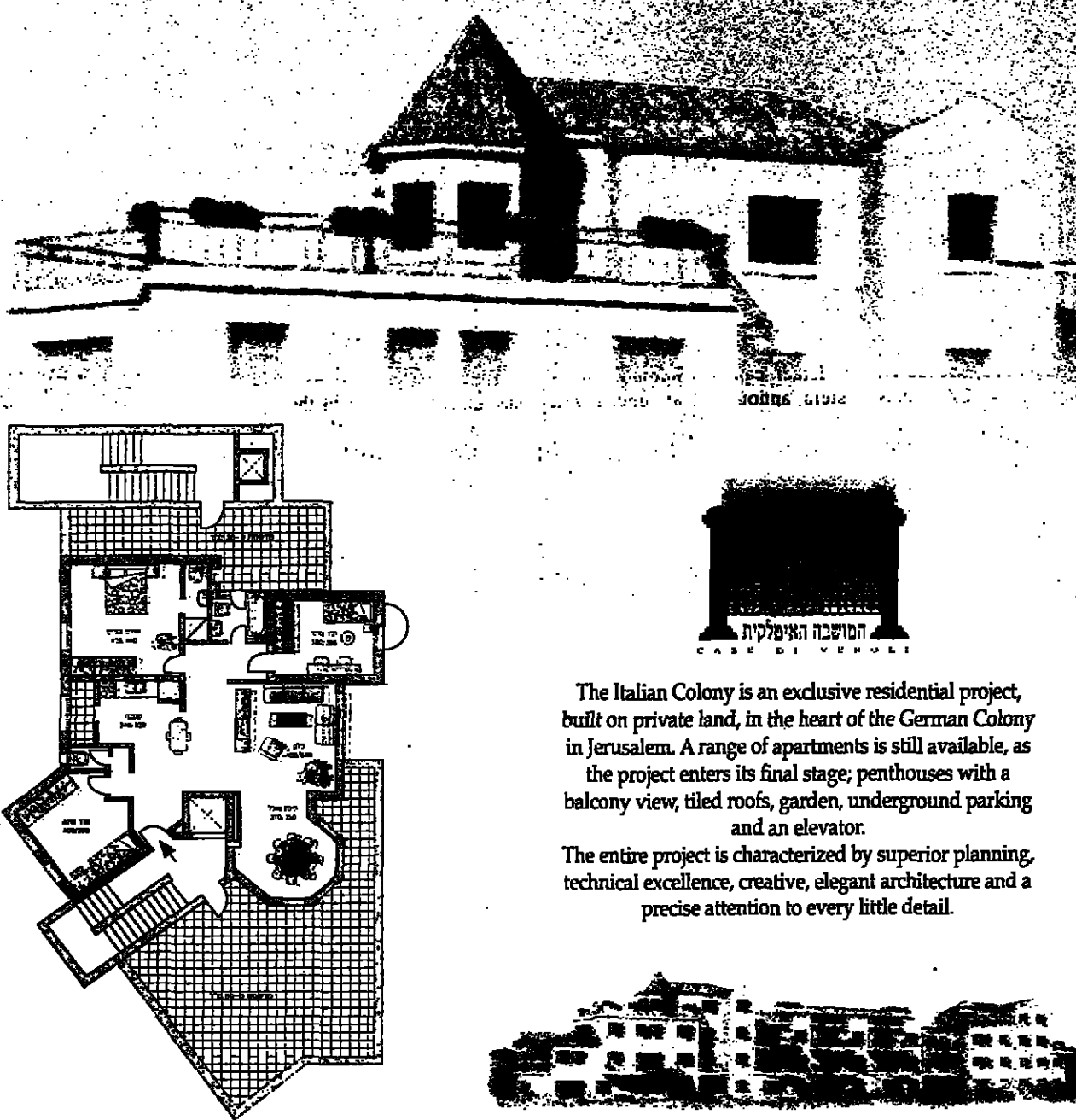
"If the agreement states that the settlers will be evacuated by the end of the interim period, we will support it," Natshe said.

Meanwhile, Hebron was not the only subject being discussed yesterday. A Palestinian demand — one that Israel rejects — is the

zoning of settlements, to ensure they do not grow beyond their current borders. Apparently, this demand is being made to ensure that even if Likud which next year's elections, it will not be able to expand settlements.

Another map-related difficulty relates to where the Palestinian Police can patrol in Arab villages near the Jerusalem municipal boundary and next to the Green Line.

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هتكم من الامم

Euro golf champ sidelined at Ryder Cup

ROCHESTER (Reuter) - Seve Ballesteros, a mainstay of Europe's Ryder Cup successes, was left out of today's opening four-somes matches in a bold move announced yesterday by Europe captain Bernard Gallacher.

Ballesteros, the all-time leading Ryder Cup points winner for Europe, has won 10 times and halved once in 14 Ryder Cup foursomes matches he's played against the US since 1979, but has been plagued by poor form.

"Seve is going to play an important part in the Ryder Cup, but it won't be in the opening day foursomes," said Gallacher, whose teams have narrowly been beaten in his first two stints as captain.

Opening for Europe will be the glamour team of three-time British Open champion and twice Masters winner Nick Faldo of England and Scot Colin Montgomerie facing US Open champion Corey Pavin and Tom Lehman.

Next up will be Scotland's Sam Torrance, whose recent hot streak has put him on top of the European Tour's Order of Merit, teamed with Italy's British Open runner-up Costantino Rocca going against former Masters champion Fred Couples and Jay Haas.

The third foursomes match pits England's Howard Clark and Mark James against Davis Love and Jeff Maggert.

Closing the opening four-somes, or alternate shot matches, Germany's two-time Masters winner Bernhard Langer and Swede Per-Ulrik Johansson will take on reigning Masters champion Ben Crenshaw and two-time US Open titlist Curtis Strange.

Today's morning foursomes will be followed by four four-ball matches in the afternoon, with those teams announced after the foursomes. Foursomes and four-ball matches will also be played tomorrow with the event ending Sunday with 12 singles matches.

Gritty Erlich helps give Israel clear lead in Davis Cup tie

ORI LEWIS and HEATHER CHAIT

EYAL Erlich helped give Israel a clear 2-0 advantage in the Davis Cup Euro/African Zone Group 1 tennis tie over Slovenia at Ramat Hasharon yesterday.

Reversing the recent trend of three straight defeats in Davis Cup for Israel - against the Czech Republic, Belgium and Norway - Israel is now almost assured of victory in the tie.

With Eyal Ran earning Israel's first point in the day's opening rubber in three easy sets over Borut Urh, Erlich then did himself proud with a gritty, if unimpressive 4-6, 6-4, 6-3, 5-7, 6-4 victory over Slovenian No. 1 Iztok Bozic.

Erlich's victory was an historic milestone in his short career: it was his first-ever five-set match in his debut Davis Cup singles appearance.

The match could have gone either way as the 18-year-old Israeli started off in very poor form. He made many errors and played very nervously, losing the first set 6-4 and then going 4-2 down in the second.

But suddenly, his game was transformed as the 600-odd noisy spectators, most of them children, spurred the youngster to wrest the advantage from Bozic, ranked 400 in the world against Erlich's 236.

Erlich began changing the net at every opportunity, forcing the Slovenian, predominantly a baseline player, to rely on passing shots.

But it was not necessarily Erlich's improved strokeplay which turned the game on its head, rather his tactics, which reduced Bozic to erratic play.

The match turned into a typical Davis Cup duel, where achieving a result and winning the critical points are the ultimate goal.

The rest of the match swayed from side to side with neither player producing his best form, but fortunately for Israel, Erlich was the one in control when it counted most and on several occasions, earned crucial points by overpowering his opponent, mostly at the net.

The turning point in the match came only close to the end when



TOO GOOD - Eyal Ran plays a two-handed backhand against Borut Urh yesterday. Ran won 6-1, 6-3, 6-4. (Brian Headler)

at 4-4 in the final set, Erlich produced a magnificent passing shot to break Bozic's serve for the first time in the set.

In the next game, Erlich, leading 40-30, unleashed a huge ace to seal the match and virtually ensure the tie for Israel.

Israel's new number one player, Ran (199), earlier had no difficulty in disposing of Urh (716) in a very one-sided encounter, winning 6-1, 6-3, 6-4. Urh simply had no answer to Ran's superior all-court game, losing in under

two hours. The Israeli, despite having a clear advantage, appeared nervous at the beginning of his match.

"The game wasn't really difficult, but the pressure and excitement of being the No. 1 player certainly had an effect on me at the beginning of the match," Ran said later.

Israel captain Shlomo Glickstein announced an unchanged duo for today's doubles with Gilad Bloom and Noam Behr lead-

ing the way. This will be 28-year-old Bloom's last appearance for Israel's Davis Cup side.

Slovenian captain Andrej Jersak said he would only name his pair today.

Action today begins at 2:15 pm with tomorrow's reverse singles starting at 1 pm. The two No. 1 pairings, Ran and Bozic will be first on court, with Erlich and Urh completing the tie.

The Israel Tennis Association has announced entry to the Canada Stadium today and tomorrow will be free of charge.

Holmes shows he's still got what it takes

BAY ST. LOUIS, Mississippi (AP) - His face puffy and eyes swollen, Larry Holmes made his latest return to the ring Tuesday - a unanimous decision over an American policeman who has been fighting only three years.

"Younger guys should be stronger than me, but they don't have the wisdom to beat a crafty old man like me," Holmes said. "It is fun when you can beat a guy 10 or 15 years younger than you are."

The 45-year-old former heavyweight champion defeated Eddie Donaldson, a policeman from Alabama, in 10 rounds at Casino Magic. This was Holmes' first fight since he lost a title bout in April to Oliver McCall, then the WBC heavyweight champ.

Holmes, who fought at 246 pounds, the heaviest in his career, improved to 62-5 with 40 knockouts.

Holmes was the heavyweight champ from 1978-85. He said he wants to fight once a month through the end of the year before retiring - again.

"I can't compare myself to what I used to be able to do," he said. "I used to have speed and finesse and used to never get hit. Now I'm flat-footed and take a shot here and take a shot there."

Donaldson, 36, dropped to 11-5 in taking on one of his boxing heroes.

Holmes followed a left jab with a right hook to the jaw at the end of the eighth round. It appeared the fight was over, but Donaldson beat the 10-count and got up just before the bell.

Donaldson wobbled through the ninth round, but had a few surges in the 10th, with a couple of solid shots to Holmes's face.

STATE CUP RESULTS

Mac. Div. Shmuel 88, Mac. Kiryat Mof. 78; Gal. Elyon 82, Mac. Carmel 52; Mac. S. Kir. Gat 109, Mac. Hafia/Carmel 83; Hap. Eilat 104, Eilat Rish. Lezion 69; Mac. Hadara 97, Mac. Ramat Gan 79; Mac. Rish. Lezion 109, Hap. Nahar. 103; Mac. Jerusalem 82, Mac. Ra'anana 80; Hap. S. Tel 81, Bet. Ramat Gan 80; Hap. Hafia 89, Mac. Netanya 89; Mac. Hod Hash. 86, Hap. Eilat 86.

Surf's up for Israeli windsurfers

LOCAL SCENE
HEATHER CHAIT

WINDSURFERS Amit Inbar and Gal Friedman may find themselves up against each other for a medal after the heats of the European Championships in England where they ended in fourth and fifth places respectively. The third Israeli to float into the final is Amir Levinson who was in 42nd place. The four-day finals end tomorrow.

Meanwhile, if the overdemand from Europe's women windsurfers for the 14 Olympic berths persists in January 1996, Israel looks set to host a cut-off tournament in March which will streamline the 20 European hopefuls to the 14 allowed Olympic entrants.

Arad, judokas on the move Six judokas left this week for Japan and the world championships which begin on September 29. Yael Arad, to be Mrs. Lior Kahana in three weeks' time, Oren Snodja, Guy Fogel, Bronislav Malinski, Arik Ze'evi and Einat Yaron will be sharpening their skills in training camps with coaches Moshe Pont and Dani Leopold until the real drama begins.

Filming every step of Arad's way will be a Channel 5 TV team which will follow her training and fights for a program to be transmitted during Succot.

Titles galore Mustering up a new ATP record of titles is Thomas Muster, the world's number three tennis player who collected his 11th title this year, beating Gilbert Shaller in an all-Austrian final in Bucharest. Along with titles comes the money, this time \$189,000. Will

Muster pocket the Eisenberg title in Ramat Hasharon next month in his third successive attempt here?

Also dropping in for the \$275,000 Eisenberg Tournament will be 400 top donors of the Israel Tennis Centers to help blow out the candles on the ITC's 18th birthday cake.

Handball ballgames Comings and goings of players are not limited to the soccer field. Thirty-three switches were made before this year's handball season began this week with six national team players playing the chameleon game.

Some of those changing colors include Guy Segal (now Maccabi Peta Tikva), Erez Gortland (Maccabi Rishon Lezion), Elizer Vared (Elitzur Herzliya) and Idan Aharonowitz (Maccabi Tel Aviv).

Anchor's swivel Tel Aviv's rowers have reason to celebrate. The Tel Aviv Foundation, with donations from Linda and Joanna Marcus and the Porter family from England, is laying the cornerstone today for a state-of-the-art rowing center which will boast storage space for 500 boats and a huge 2,800 sq.m. training hall. The \$9 million project on the banks of the Hayarkon near Rokach Boulevard will include a bridge connecting the boats and practice areas.

Ohana loyalty When he goes, so does she. Sporting slipping surreptitiously out at halftime from Teddy Stadium after hubby Eli had done his stint for Israel was Mrs. Ronit Ohana and son, Tom. Perhaps the incessant commentary of Uruguayan Radio's Javier Goni was too much for her. Round-faced Goni, who became apologetic when his team scored, was finally silenced when I asked him for his impression of the game, saying "I speak very little English."

Toto Cup soccer heralds new year

ORI LEWIS

NATIONAL League and Second Division soccer takes the weekend off ahead of the high holidays with Toto Cup action kicking in its place.

In the National League, only Ironi Rishon and Maccabi Haifa have perfect records after three rounds of action. Both have the chance of making almost certain of gaining a spot in the next stage of the competition if they can beat respective opponents Hapoel Peta Tikva and Maccabi Herzliya tomorrow.

Hapoel Beersheba will want to

warm up and gain a little confidence before their trip to Spain for the return leg of their UEFA Cup tie against Barcelona, with an away fixture against league newcomers Maccabi Jaffa this afternoon.

Undoubtedly, today's match at Jaffa's Gaon ground will be less of a contest to what they can expect at Nou Camp Stadium on Wednesday night. With a deficit of seven goals from their home drubbing, the Negev side will

have to try to take heart from this afternoon's match and attempt to chalk up a victory before the daunting task of facing Barcelona.

This weekend's National League Toto Cup fixtures (all matches at 15:30 unless otherwise stated): Hapoel Hafia v. Maccabi Tel Aviv, Kiryat Eliezer today 16:00; Ironi Rishon v. Hapoel Peta Tikva, Rishon, tomorrow; Maccabi Herzliya v. Maccabi Hafia, Herzliya tomorrow 16:00; Be'er Yehuda v. Be'er Jerusalem, Hatzitza Quarter, tomorrow; Maccabi Jaffa v. Hapoel Beersheba, Gaon Stadium, today; Be'er Tel Aviv v. Zefirim Holon, Gaon Stadium, today 13:30; Hapoel Kiryat Sava v. Hapoel Tel Aviv, Kiryat Sava, tomorrow; Hapoel Beit She'an v. Maccabi Peta Tikva, Tiberias, tomorrow.

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The following language courses will be offered in the academic year 1995-1996

DUTCH

Beginners: Sunday 18:30-18:00
Tuesday 18:30-18:00

Advanced: Wednesday 18:00-21:00

GERMAN

Post Advanced Level - Reading, writing, listening comprehension and conversation

Sunday 18:00-20:00
Tuesday 18:00-20:00

Spoken German - Advanced Level - Conversation, writing and listening comprehension

Sunday 18:00-18:00
Tuesday 18:00-18:00

YIDDISH

Beginners: Monday 18:00-18:00
Wednesday 18:00-18:00

Advanced: Sunday 10:00-12:00
Tuesday 10:00-12:00

SPOKEN ARABIC

Beginners: Sunday 18:00-18:00
Thursday 18:00-20:00

Advanced: Sunday 18:00-20:00
Thursday 18:00-18:00

PORTUGUESE

Beginners: Monday 18:00-20:00
Wednesday 18:00-20:00

RUSSIAN

Beginners: Sunday 12:00 noon-14:00
Wednesday 12:00 noon-14:00

Advanced: Sunday 16:00-18:00
Wednesday 16:00-18:00

Monday 12 noon-14:00 Readings and discussion of literary and historical texts I

Thursday 14:00-16:00
Sunday 14:00-16:00 Readings and discussion of literary and historical texts II

Thursday 14:00-16:00
Sunday 12:00 noon-14:00 Proficiency and style

Sunday 16:00-18:00 Conversation

Thursday 16:00-18:00

All courses are taught by University language teachers. A multimedia foreign language learning center is available. Registration will take place on October 1 and 2, 1995 from 14:00 to 18:00 at The Division of Foreign Languages Tel Aviv University, Sharret Building, Room 210

State of Israel - Central Bureau of Statistics Population and Housing Census - 1995

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Clear handwriting
Good health, allowing for walking several hours a day
Knowledge of additional languages an asset

Conditions of Employment: By contract

Duration of Employment: October 19 to December 15, 1995

Final Date for Applications: September 27, 1995

Application forms, including a description of the position, may be obtained at the following offices in the areas:

post offices; the Employment Service offices; Population and Housing Census regional offices; district offices of the State Comptroller's Office and the Central Bureau of Statistics.

Applications should be sent to:
P.O. Box 1000, Ramat Hasharon, Jerusalem 47100

The offer is intended for both men and women.

All of us are in the Census

SPORTS BRIEFS

Caesarea golf roundup

The Individual Stableford tournament, held last weekend at the Caesarea Golf Club, was divided into four divisions. In the first division Leslie Ben-Amir led with 37 Stableford points. Lionel Phillips was second with 36 and Shuki Tzadikman was third with 35.

In the second division, Eric Isaacs finished with 41 followed with a tie for second - Michel Daniels and Lulu Gvirtzman with 40 apiece. In the third division Dani Ronen led with 42, Leon Rosenberg came in at 37 and Norma Kaufman at 35. In the fourth division, Katriel Springer came first with 42, Mike Marmor had 34 and super-senior Victor Nitzche ended with 29.

In the annual Uri Akavia Memorial Trophy competition, the three winners were Ronen, Springer, and Arieh Gressaro.

After 13 rounds of the national Coca-Cola Golf League, Or Akiva leads with 28 points, Kirat Shmaryahu-Herzliya, 27 and Ra'anana-Kfar Saba, 23.

Jules Cuburnek

Cricket finals tomorrow

Hosts Young Ashdod and Lod Lions will face off in the Israel Cricket Association final tomorrow. The winners will receive the David Silbowitz Cup, named in honor of the former Capetown resident from Kibbutz Yezzeel who fell during the Yom Kippur War.

In last week's semifinals:

Young Ashdod 169 (M. Singh 48, M. Aarons 36, D. Silver 5/46 D. Moss 3/43) beat Netanya 130 (D. Silver 30, N. Jhirad 5-31 including hat-trick, R. Ashton 3-54)

Lod Lions 34/3 (M. Mohabbat 3/22) beat Tel Aviv (L. Masil 4/13, J. Tal 4/12).

Post sports staff

Mason signs multi-year pact with Knicks

Anthony Mason, whose professional basketball career began in Turkey and culminated with the NBA's Sixth Man Award last season, signed a multi-year contract today to remain with the New York Knicks. No terms were announced. Also yesterday, the Portland Trail Blazers traded forward Otis Thorpe to Detroit for rookie guard Randolph Childress and second-year forward Bill Curley.

AP

London mulls bid for 2008 games

Britain, which failed in successive bids for the 1992, 1996 and 2000 Summer Olympics, looks set to put forward a London bid for the 2008 Games.

AP

Griffey offered deal to play in Japan

Ken Griffey Jr. has been offered \$12 million to play one baseball season for an undisclosed Japanese team and endorse the sponsoring company's products, according to the Seattle center fielder's agent.

Griffey's contract expires in 1997 and both sides are working on a contract extension. Griffey hopes to stay in Seattle, where the Mariners are making their first bid for postseason play, said attorney Brian Goldberg.

AP

New Jersey Yankees?

New York Yankees owner George Steinbrenner, unhappy with the team's location in the Bronx, says he's excited by New Jersey's plan to build a new ballpark for his club.

The team's lease at Yankee Stadium expires after the 2002 season. Earlier this month, the club turned down the city's \$500 million renovation plan for Yankee Stadium.

Steinbrenner said he has talked to officials of the New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority, which runs the Meadowlands complex.

AP

מלחמה לאו

Airport refueling workers resume work

THE workers of Flight Services, the company that refuels airplanes at Ben-Gurion Airport, returned to work yesterday morning following a four-day strike, after an agreement was reached between the Histadrut and the company's management at dawn.

After marathon negotiations at Histadrut headquarters throughout the night, Flight Services' management accepted the document of principles drawn up by the Histadrut and striking workers' union, and will now begin negotiating a new work agreement. The previous one expired in 1989.

According to the document, the ongoing court debate about the workers' demands from 1988

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

to 1990 will continue, while a new wage agreement will be signed for the years 1991 to 1995.

Then a new wage agreement will be negotiated for the years 1995 to 1997, which would serve as the basis for running the company in the coming years, Histadrut trade union chairman Amir Peretz said yesterday.

The strike caused disruptions in service and losses to the airlines. Airplanes had to land in other airports for refueling, thus delaying the flights for hours, causing problems with connecting flights and raising the operation costs. The foreign airlines

often had to transport passengers on delayed flights to town, put them up in hotels and pay for their accommodation and meals.

El Al, which operates 45% of the flights in Israel, suffered the worst damages, estimated at several millions of dollars. The company had to use jumbo jets to fly extra fuel to interim stops outside Israel to refuel El Al aircraft, airline sources said.

None of the airlines, including El Al, revealed the exact scope of the damages incurred by the strike. "Because we have to continue operating in Ben-Gurion Airport and we don't want to spoil our future relations with the refueling workers," one source said.



Bereaved mother Rabel Asraf lights the beacon yesterday at the Home Front Command's annual memorial ceremony for its fallen in Ramle (IDF Spokesman)

Immigration up 9% in 5755

Jerusalem Post Staff

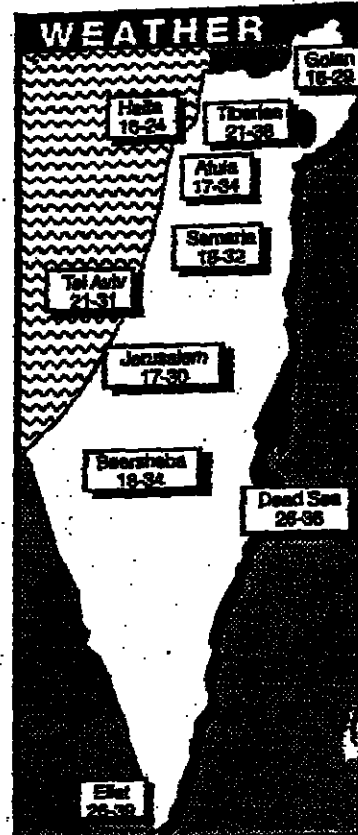
SOME 82,000 immigrants arrived here in the past year, 68,000 of them from the CIS. This was a nine percent increase over last year, when 75,000 arrived, the Jewish Agency and the Absorption Ministry announced, in a joint communiqué on the eve of Rosh Hashana.

Yesterday, about 600 immigrants were due to arrive on the Jewish Agency's last seven flights of the Jewish year, from Moscow, Kishinyov, Tashkent, Baku, and Kiev.

According to Absorption Ministry figures, 3,500 immigrants came from Western Europe in the past year, a 7.5% increase over last year. Some 1,550 came from France alone. Another 3,150 came from North America.

In 5755, 1,708 immigrant flights from 27 different locations in the CIS and eastern Europe touched down in Israel.

About 676,000 immigrants have arrived since the current wave began in late 1989. The ministry reported that some 72% of immigrant families who arrived since then have bought apartments. Unemployment among new immigrants dropped from 13% to 9% in the past year.



Forecast: Partly cloudy, rise in temperatures.
Shabbat: Little change.

AROUND THE WORLD

	LOW	HIGH	WIND	MOON
Jerusalem	18	24	10-15	100%
Haifa	18	24	10-15	100%
Tiberias	18	24	10-15	100%
Akko	18	24	10-15	100%
Samaria	18	24	10-15	100%
Jerusalem	18	24	10-15	100%
Beer Sheva	18	24	10-15	100%
Dead Sea	18	24	10-15	100%

Abeid returns to court for retrial in Kikos murder

AMIR ROZENBLIT

TEN months after being convicted of murdering Ofakim teenager Hanit Kikos, Su-leiman Abeid returned to Beersheba District Court yesterday simply as an accused, and once again faced the panel of judges who sentenced him to life imprisonment.

Earlier this month, the Supreme Court canceled his conviction and ordered him retried, after Kikos's body was discovered in a drainage hole, in a spot different from where Abeid said he had dumped the body.

Dressed in brown pants and a black T-shirt, Abeid looked buoyant as he walked into court. He waved and blew kisses to his wife Miriam and members of his family, and said as he entered the building: "I'll tell the judges I'm innocent, that they railroaded me. I believe justice will be done." "There's a god above who will put an end to all this nonsense. They've killed me

already, and I'm dying to go home to my wife and children. God willing, in the end I will be freed."

The hearing was short and revolved around setting dates for future sessions. If nothing unusual happens, a verdict is expected in about two months. The retrial will focus on the fibers found near the body which the police claim to somewhat match

those found in Abeid's car.

Abeid's lawyer, Avigdor Feldman, said "a new dispute has developed over the evidence gathered in Abeid's car." The defense is to ask whether the evidence definitely proves Kikos was in Abeid's car. A defense expert is to compare the fibers and give his opinion.

Rafi Kikos, the victim's father, said after the hearing: "The retrial has made me feel better and removed many doubts I had."

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